



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

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

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NUMBER 6

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Founders Memorial Library at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.



Bob Bennett remembered

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President's column

The 2004 Horatio Alger Society Convention on May 13-16, "Dash to DeKalb II," is fast approaching. Old friendships are renewed and new friends are made at our annual convention. Where else can you hang out with other people who enjoy 19th century children's literature? Certainly not at Borders or Barnes & Noble! And where else can you find more books in a weekend to build your collection? Maybe on eBay, but you don't get to handle the books in person and you don't get the camaraderie of other collectors and enthusiasts.

Art Young, our host, has an article on Page 3 discussing the convention program and other details. Please send in the enclosed reservation form as soon as possible. Time is slipping away!

Speaking of time slipping away, I won't be too sorry to see winter slip away into spring. Every time the upcoming weekend looks good for a book-hunting trip on Saturday, it either snows, or sleet or both on Friday night. Then the issue becomes having enough food in the house. If you are going to sit around Saturday, watch it snow, and read books, you must have suitable munchies. Inevitably, when I am scheduled to work on the weekend, the weather is perfect. Spring also means auctions, yard sales, antique shows and flea markets. Plenty of opportunity to transfer someone else's junk from their basement to your basement!

With sadness we note the passing of two Horatio Alger Society members. Leo "Bob" Bennett (PF-265) died Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Port Charlotte, Fla. Bob was a member of the society since 1969 and a past president. He is probably best known for his excellent 1980 bibliography of Horatio Alger's works, updated and republished in 1999 by Ed Mattson and Tom Davis. Please read Rob Kasper's tribute to Bob on Page 6.

We also have just received news that Rohima Walter (PF-160) recently passed away in a nursing home in Lafayette, Ind. Rohima, a member since 1966, attended many conventions with her husband, John. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and Rohima's families.

Remember — make your convention reservations as soon as possible. Let's see a large gathering in DeKalb!

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.

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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. 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.

Welcome to 'Dash to DeKalb II'!

A preview of the 2004 Horatio Alger Society Convention

By Arthur P. Young (PF-941)

It hardly seems possible that five years have elapsed since we hosted the Horatio Alger Society annual convention in 1999. That conference was held in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Horatio Alger, Jr. Although we do not have a specific Alger-related event to celebrate, we believe that we have an equally fine program to offer on May 13-16, 2004.

First, a few words about Northern Illinois University. Northern Illinois State Normal School opened its doors in 1899 to 173 students. Its 16 faculty members were authorized to offer a two-year teacher education curriculum.

In August 2003, Northern Illinois University opened a new academic year with more than 25,000 students pursuing their educational goals in one of the university's 56 baccalaureate or 72 master's, specialist, doctoral, or professional degree programs administered in seven colleges. In just over 100 years, the university has evolved from an institution with a rather narrow focus to one with a comprehensive mission. This mission includes instruction ranging from general education to in-depth professional preparation across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

The University Libraries now have more than two million volumes, placing us in the top 125 libraries in the United States. We have an annual budget of \$9.5 million, 116 professional and civil service staff, and more than 150 student assistants.

During the past five years, the Digital Projects unit has produced widely acclaimed Web sites on Abraham Lincoln and various aspects of Illinois history, and is now engaged in a Web site titled, "Mark Twain and the Mississippi." This unit has brought in more than \$1 million in grant money during this period.

The Special Collections and Rare Book unit continues to acquire scarce and rare items of interest to the Society. Of particular interest to H.A.S. members is the acquisition of several dozen original Alger illustrations executed by J. Watson Davis. These illustrations will be available for viewing at the convention.

Through the continuing generosity of Brad Chase, the enormous number of Alger reprints has become a very large collection and will be accessible by all. Of special note will be the first showing to the membership of the magnificent first edition collection of Gerald R. Friedland, acquired just after the 1999 convention.

There will be several guest speakers for this conven-



The University Guest Rooms Hotel, located in the Holmes Student Center, will be the location of most events during the 2004 Horatio Alger Society convention May 13-16.

Photo by Arthur P. Young

tion: our friend Nicholas Basbanes will return for the keynote address on Saturday evening, reprising his 1999 appearance with new material from the three additional books which he has written since he last spoke with us ("A Splendor of Letters").

Bob Huber, our esteemed president, will speak on the "Radio Boys Series and the Development of Radio"; Kyoko Amano (PF-1049), the first recipient of the Horatio Alger Fellowship at NIU, will speak on "Cut and Create; or, Alger's Editors Make a Success Hero, Part II"; and Linda Sohl and Stephen Downie will speak informally on the topic, "Mr. Alger, the Downie Boys, and Our Family."

In line with our tradition of book collecting, we will host three sales for this convention: the consignment auction for those who are asking the Society to sell their

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Editor's notebook

As another Horatio Alger Society convention approaches, I must bring back a recollection of my first convention — 1983, in Columbus, Ohio.

Invited at the urging of host Bob Sawyer, I didn't know anything at the time about Alger, having started collecting Tom Swift books in the late 1950s and expanding my horizons into other books by the Stratemeyer Syndicate and by Edward Stratemeyer himself. However, Sawyer and I shared an affection for the Rover Boys series, so I took the weekend off and drove the six hours from the Chicago area to Columbus.

I did not know what to expect when I arrived that Thursday afternoon at the Best Western Hotel, located on Olentangy River Road on the city's north side. Signs in the lobby guided me to the H.A.S. hospitality room, and Bob, who was manning the registration desk, introduced himself and said the best thing to do was visit individual rooms near mine, that bookselling and trading was going on that very minute.

An hour or so later, while looking at Society members' books for sale in boxes or laid out on their beds, a gentleman entered the room carrying a handful of slim corrugated boxes. Looking at my name tag, he recognized me as a first-timer.

"Hi, I'm Bob Bennett, and I have this Alger bibliography for sale. Want to buy a copy?"

After telling him I didn't collect Alger, he said, "Well, you're at the Horatio Alger Society convention, aren't you? If you don't collect Alger now, I'm sure you'll want to by the end of the weekend."

So, I handed over the cash (I think it was \$15), and officially entered the world of Horatio Alger. The following day, Bob gave the entire group a presentation on Alger first editions, and Brad Chase discussed the A.L. Burt Algers. Coincidentally, Brad also had a book on the Burts in the works, which I subsequently ordered and received in March 1984.

Within 24 hours, I had grown from Alger ignoramus to someone with at least an introductory knowledge of his books — Bob Bennett on the first editions and Brad Chase on the wide world of reprints. I soon learned that both these gentlemen had served as presidents of the Society and had hosted conventions. I realized how much I had missed by not joining the Society several years earlier!

The recent news of Bob Bennett's death is obviously a very large blow to the Society. Although I did not to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Rohima M. Walter (PF-160) died Jan. 24, 2004.

She and I both enjoyed reading Alger books and going to the convention every year, where we always received a hearty welcome from Ralph Gardner and the other members.

Rohima's people came from France, and her mother died when was 3. Her father then married a practical nurse, who died in 1949. Rohima's father died 24 hours later, just before we met.

I sold all her books to a member of the Society so someone could really enjoy them, and so they would not be destroyed. The old books still have more meaning than new books.

I will try to keep in touch with the group as long as I can. Rohima and I were married 53 years, and we had a wonderful life together.

Sincerely,
John C. Walter
1307 Greenbush St.
Lafayette, IN 47904

To: Bob Huber

President, Horatio Alger Society

Hi Bob:

I have been an honorary member of the Horatio Alger Society for several years due to my publishing a newsletter, **Martha's Kidlit Newsletter**.

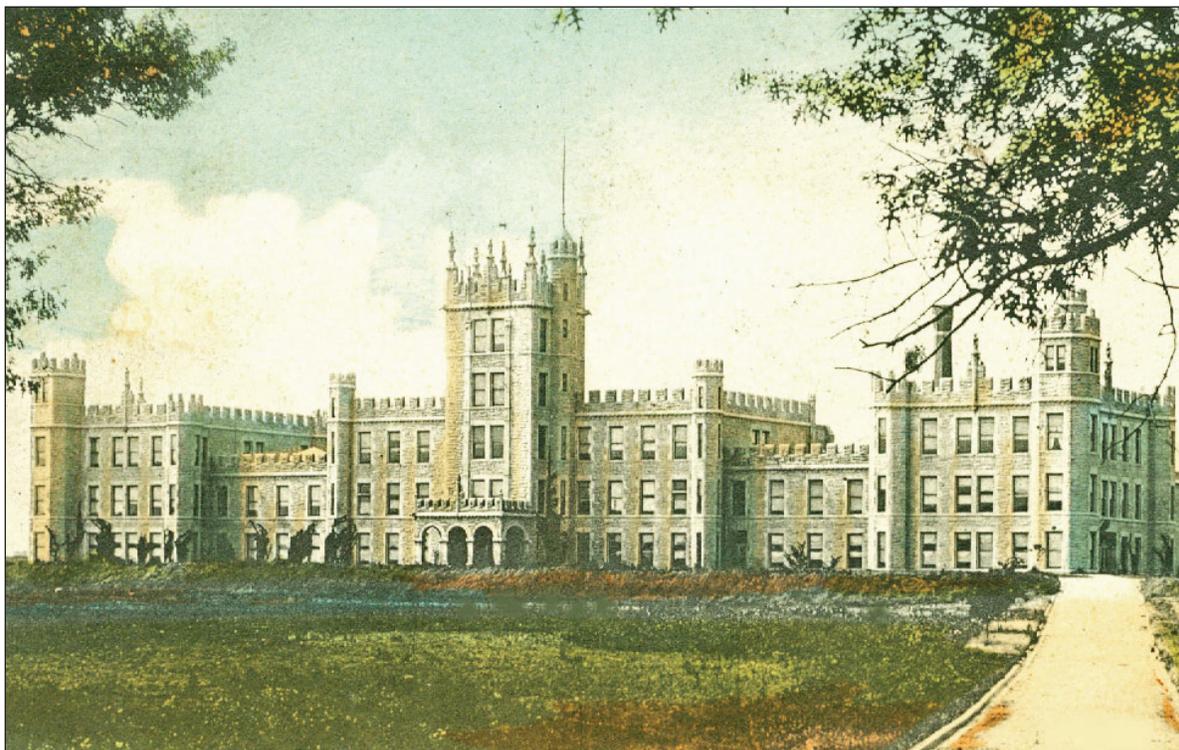
However, I have discontinued publication of this newsletter and of the Web site at www.kidlitonline.org. I would like to discontinue my subscription to **Newsboy** and have closed my post office box and will not be leaving an address for items sent there.

I have enjoyed reading **Newsboy** and found it useful for reporting on the Horatio Alger Society in **Martha's Kidlit Newsletter** and on the Web. However, since I am no longer reporting news of the children's literature collecting community, I'm not reading your newsletter. Thank you for the issues you've sent and best wishes for the Horatio Alger Society in 2004.

Sincerely,
Martha Rasmussen
Ames, Iowa

get to know him on a close personal level because of our divergent collecting interests, he always had a ready smile and story to tell during our annual conventions. I also very much admired his courage in the face of several major illnesses in recent years. In one case, he was en route from his upstate New York home to a New York

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Altgeld Hall, oldest building on the Northern Illinois University campus in DeKalb, was home of Northern Illinois State Normal School, NIU's original name when it opened its doors as a teachers' college in 1899.

Reproduced from a lithograph post card, circa 1912

'Dash to DeKalb II'

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items for a modest commission; donations, the proceeds of which all go to the Society; and the member book sale, where you can sell books on your own.

For those wishing to mail items before the convention, please send books to Arthur P. Young, Dean, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868. Be sure to indicate the type of auction for which you are sending items.

We will also provide you with free time for visiting book stores and antique shops in Chicago and Rockford. A list of book stores, museums, antique shops, and other points of interest in the DeKalb area will be provided at the convention. On May 13 and 14, the HAS Repository will be open in the Special Collections area of Founders Memorial Library, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On May 15, the HAS Repository will be open from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

DeKalb is located on Interstate 88, just 60 miles west of downtown Chicago. If you are planning to fly, O'Hare International Airport is about an hour away. Enclosed are details for driving on Interstate 88 to DeKalb.

You may reserve transportation from O'Hare Airport to DeKalb through the DeKalb O'Hare Limousine Service

by advance appointment. Call (815) 758-0631 or toll free (877) 367-5525 to reserve a limousine. The one-way single passenger fare is \$50; \$10 for each additional person. The fee must be paid directly to the Limousine Service at time of service. Fees are higher for service from Midway Airport, and for late-night (after 10:30 p.m.) rides. There are other options which can easily be mapped out on computer travel sites.

The Horatio Alger Society has reserved a block of rooms at the University Guest Rooms Hotel for the rate of \$72.15. This multiple-occupancy (up to 3 guests) rate includes tax; larger accommodations are available at a higher rate. Make your room reservations directly with the hotel at (815) 753-1444. For more information, see the enclosed convention registration form.

The weather in the month of May in DeKalb is always a guessing game, and may be anywhere from pleasantly warm to cool. You may wish to bring a sweater and a lightweight jacket.

Please make your hotel reservations and return the registration form and the dinner choices by no later than April 30.

Convention information and our schedule of events are also available on the NIU University Libraries Web site at www.niulib.niu.edu/rbsc/DashtoDeKalb2.html.

Travel in good health, and we'll see everyone soon!

Bob Bennett remembered: Collector, bibliographer and Partic'lar Friend

By Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

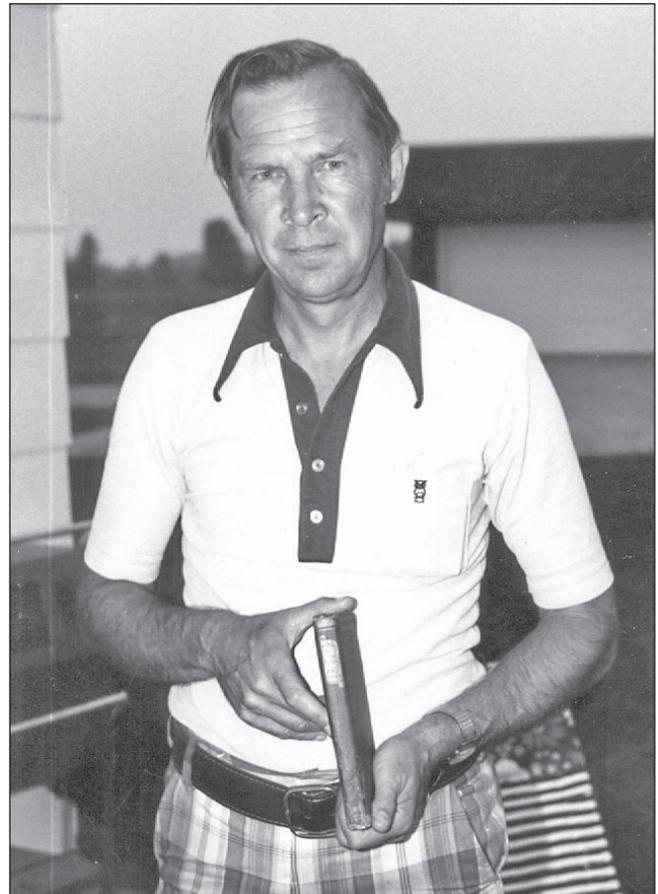
The Alger world lost a giant on February 11, 2004, with the death of Leo Robert "Bob" Bennett. Bob died of complications from lung cancer even though he stopped smoking more than 10 years ago. Bob had some close medical calls during his life, beating prostate cancer 13 years ago and surviving a massive heart attack a few years later.

Bob was a past president of the Horatio Alger Society, Director, Director Emeritus, author, bibliographer, consummate collector and all-around nice guy. He had at one time the best Horatio Alger collection in private hands missing, I believe, only two first editions. Bob's great Alger collection was the impetus for his bibliography published in 1980 by Flying Eagle Publishing Company and reprinted by MAD Book Company in 1999. His book is considered the "Bible" for Alger collectors along with Ralph Gardner's 1964 bibliography.

In the 1970s and 1980s Bob wrote many articles for *Newsboy*, always informing and entertaining readers with his abundant knowledge of Alger, his books and life. I eagerly looked forward to his articles on little-known facts about Alger's life, new discoveries, rare editions and tales of his book-hunting exploits. I remember quite clearly Bob's announcement of his purchase of first editions of *Timothy Crump's Ward* and *The Disagreeable Woman*, both made in a span of 10 days. Bob made contact with many early Alger collectors, including, Stanley Pachon, Donald Steinhauer and Morton Enslin, to name a few, and his recollections of those meetings were always fascinating.

Bob was born and grew up in Michigan. For many years he was a superintendent and administrator at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. In the mid 1980s he moved to Nyack, New York and was the Director of Welfare Work Programs for Rockland County, New York before retiring in 1999. Bob and his wife, Luciana, then moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico for a few years before settling in Port Charlotte, Florida in 2003.

I had the pleasure of spending a delightful afternoon with Bob and Luciana last year in Florida. Even though Bob sold his collection 10 years ago and hadn't attended an Alger convention since 1995, it was obvious that his passion and enthusiasm for Horatio Alger had not dissipated.



Bob Bennett (PF-265) holds his hard-cover first edition of *Timothy Crump's Ward*.

Letters of tribute to Bob Bennett

I was so saddened to hear Bob Bennett has died. Beyond his Alger expertise, he was just a really nice guy — a guy one likes to just sit with and chat about nothing earthshaking, just "things," as he was interested in so much, and particularly in you and your life. For example, he always asked about my wife, Ann. I liked that; I liked it a lot, and he always remembered her name, that she was a teacher and that we had four kids. He certainly wasn't all Alger; he was just a solid, interesting guy.

I've known Bob ever since the mid-'70's, when he was preparing his landmark book that we have all considered for almost 25 years now as our Alger collecting bible. The last time I saw Bob was late 1998 when he visited

Leo R. Bennett

Leo Robert "Bob" Bennett, 71, of Port Charlotte, Fla., died Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004, at Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte.

He was born Aug. 22, 1932, in Flint, Mich. Mr. Bennett served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Mr. Bennett was an athletic director, coach and teacher of history and public relations. He was a superintendent and administrator at Central Michigan University. He worked for 10 years as director of welfare work programs before retiring in 1999. He was a member of the Horatio Alger Society, and moved to the Port Charlotte area one year ago from Albuquerque, N.M.

Mr. Bennett is survived by his wife, Luciana Bennett, of Port Charlotte; two daughters, Denise (Joseph) Graver of Linden, Mich., and Debbie (Mike) Rosipko of Lennon, Mich.; one son, Barry (Mindy) Bennett of Deltona, Fla.; two stepsons, Dan (Kathy) McDaniel of Margate, Fla. and Marc (Shelly) Jenison of Howard City, Mich.; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one brother, Bill (Karen) Bennett of Flint, Mich.

Burial will be in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Fla.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 22107 Elmira Blvd., Port Charlotte, Fla., 33952.

Arrangements are by Paul Schelm Funeral Home, Port Charlotte.

Obituary published in the Sunday, February 15, 2004, edition of the Port Charlotte (Fla.) Sun-Herald.

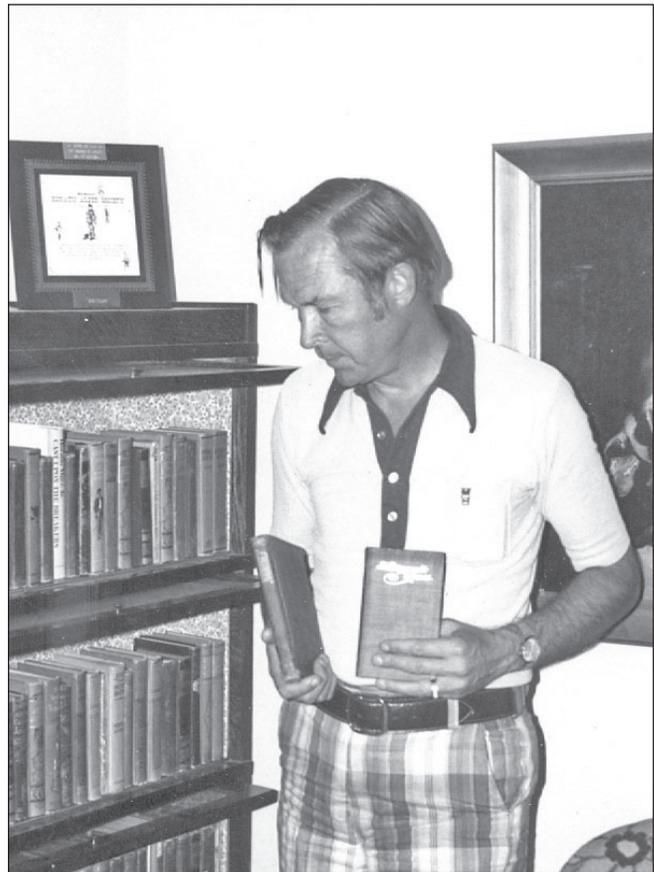
our home gathering information to make his updated book more complete. I was thrilled that he had stopped and equally thrilled that he had found information here that he could use. You could just tell that he was so appreciative.

However, the thing I remember most about that visit was so typical of Bob. After I told him I was about to face a serious operation that it turned out he had already endured, he told me things which literally lifted my spirit immeasurably and ultimately assisted me in mentally getting through the ordeal.

Thank you, Bob, for just being you, and for all you have given to us who had the pleasure of your company.

**Brad Chase (PF-412)
Enfield, Conn.**

It was a big shock learning of Bob Bennett's death from Bernie Biberdorf. I had corresponded with Bob for years. He was patient and most helpful in resolving some bibliographic points. I admired his thoroughness and the accuracy and detail of his research, and I was especially grateful for his willingness to share



Bennett shows off the two rarest first editions in his Alger collection: *Timothy Crump's Ward*, left, and *The Disagreeable Woman*.

his knowledge with other researchers and help in any way he could.

His passing is a big loss to the Society.

**John T. Dizer (PF-511)
Utica, N.Y.**

Bob joined the Horatio Alger Society in mid-1969, soon after I became a member, and we soon started corresponding on a regular basis. I believe his first convention was in Revere, Mass., in 1970, and at that time he took an active role in the leadership of the Society. He hosted the 1972 convention in Mount Pleasant, Mich., and that year was elected president.

Right from the very beginning he was interested in collecting first editions and other rare titles, and his collection soon became one of the finest in private hands. And speaking of hands, I vividly recall him showing me his copies of *Timothy Crump's Ward* and *The Disagreeable Woman*, and I held them up, one in each hand, admiring them. Bob had an almost encyclopedic knowledge of Alger bibliography, and he was always willing to

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Bob Bennett remembered

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share first-edition points or other minutiae that he learned. Moreover, he enlivened quite a few Society conventions with his dry wit and humorous stories. He will certainly be remembered as one of the Society's foremost researchers.

Jack Bales (PF-258)
Fredericksburg, Va.

I was surprised and disappointed to hear of Bob Bennett's passing. I never met Bob, but I've had the pleasure of reading and "using" the Alger bibliography he researched and wrote. After last year's H.A.S. convention, I acquired an original hard-cover edition of the Alger bibliography Bob authored.

I contacted him via e-mail and he graciously consented to autograph the volume. It means so much that he would take time to do this for an H.A.S. newbie like myself. He was also kind enough to sell me his complete run of **Dime Novel Round-Ups**. I think he was as happy that they were going to someone who would read, enjoy and use them as I was thrilled to acquire them.

I would like to have met him, and planned to stop in when I next traveled to Florida. Alas... I never had the pleasure, but I did not have to meet him in person to know that Bob's heart was as big as his Alger knowledge was deep.

His family and friends have my deepest sympathy.

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
Shelbyville, Ind.



Bob Bennett and fellow former H.A.S. president Jerry Friedland share a happy moment during the 1983 convention, "Collected in Columbus."



Bob checks out a few of the items donated for the annual auction during the 16th annual convention, "The Connecticut Conclave," in 1980.

Editor's note: Flowers and a card were sent in February to Luciana Bennett by president Bob Huber on behalf of the Horatio Alger Society. If you wish to send a card or personal note to Luciana, her address is: Luciana Bennett, 23151 Langdon Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33954

Revisiting the Hurst Alger miniatures

By Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602)

In early 1992 I wrote an article for *Newsboy* titled "The Hurst miniatures: A preliminary look." During the past 11 years the number of my miniatures has grown, mostly due to the diligent and successful searching for the little Hursts by my brother, Brad. In the meantime, I have slowly sold a nice set of first editions to Alger fans.

Recently, I was fortunate to be able to purchase Bob Williman's entire miniature library from his widow, Kathie. She was hesitant, but after huddling with her family, she decided to sell after seven years of achingly viewing the books in her home. Many of the present H.A.S. members may not have met Bob or Kathie. He was a man with a vibrant personality who refused to accept a "no" from someone when he, Bob, "knew" it was the correct thing to do. He spent countless hours planning, shepherding and cajoling the U.S. Post Office into issuing a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of Horatio Alger's birth. This two-year effort was culminated in a First Day of Issue stamp and an appropriate ceremony at Willow Grove, Pa., on April 30, 1982. Many of us who were there still have those First Day of Issue stamps and other memorabilia of the day. The annual H.A.S. annual convention followed on May 1-2 in Willow Grove, hosted by William Russell, and the stamps went on sale that weekend in post offices throughout the country.

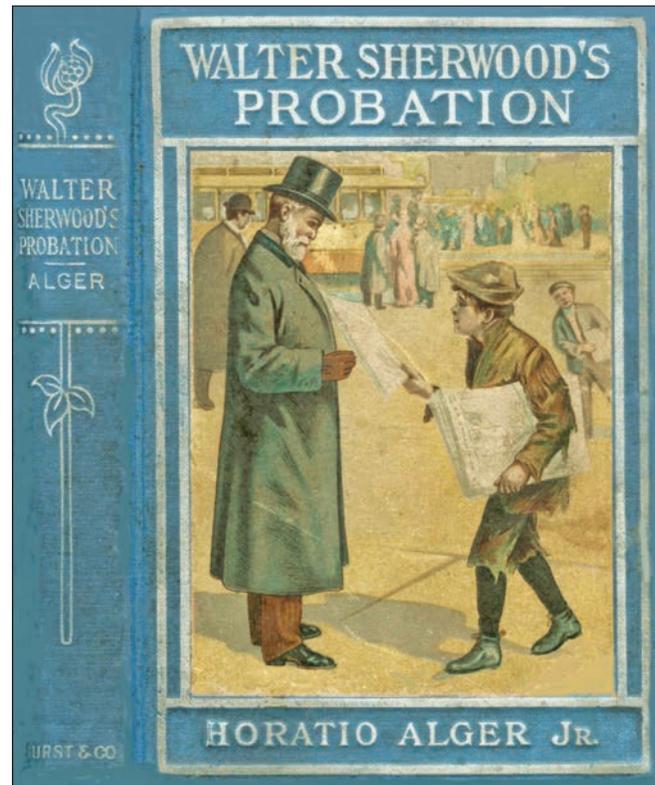
Bob was also the driving force behind the Horatio Alger Society setting up an estate service to assist the families of members who die. It ensures that his or her books are sold at a fair price and the proceeds are properly distributed to the family.

During the preparation of the 1992 article, Bob and a few others in the Society who collected Hurst miniatures helped immeasurably by freely sending me data, along with pictures of titles, covers and formats of their books. A few Partic'lar Friends who had miniatures in their collections sent me information after the article appeared. That knowledge, and the many miniatures obtained since, prompts me to write a second article which may help all of us better understand these "little jewels."

This article does not attempt to add or subtract from the comments presented in 1992. Rather, it stands alone, so there is no need to refer to the earlier one. Photographs on these pages may be duplicates of those appearing with the original article when such duplication is appropriate.

Some conclusions:

1. It is suspected that 54 Alger titles were issued by Hurst in the miniature format. No copy of *The Young Outlaw* has been seen or reported — a surprise — so 53



Hurst miniature cover appliqué variation 4d-2 in the "hanging dagger" format. Note that the newsboy in this illustration has his left foot forward.

titles are confirmed. In all cases, Horatio Alger, JR. was the author's name as listed on the title page, with the "R" in JR being half-size.

2. There are three "standard" cover designs:

a. By far the most common of all miniatures (nearly twice the number of books as the other two combined) has a stylized "hanging dagger" design on the spine with a variety of pasted-on rectangular appliqués, these illustrations covering perhaps 80 percent of the front of the book. Twenty-three different appliqués have been identified, with more probably yet unidentified. Fifty-two different titles have been noted, and Alger's name is listed as HORATIO ALGER JR., and centered on the bottom of the cover. The majority of the time, the author's name has the "R" in JR in half-size. On a smaller number of copies, however, the "R" is full-size. These invariably occur on older copies or those with quite rare appliqués, and in all of these cases JR has no period after it. (This may suggest that some or all of the rarely seen appliqués were used only during the title's early life).

b. The second-most common cover is the "roses" de-

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Hurst Alger miniatures

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sign, with 12 roses on the front cover and five intertwined on the spine. A variety of different appliquéés are pasted on the cover, filling perhaps 60 percent of its area. Only 31 different titles have been noted in this cover, using 13 different appliquéés. (Note, however, that *The Telegraph Boy* appears only in this format — so far). Alger's name is shown on the cover as described in 2a. All 54 titles were perhaps not issued in this variation.

c. The least prevalent cover is the "hanging dagger" design, (as in 2a, above) with an oval appliqué showing a church (one case) and a girl (12 different "girls" in various poses). The appliqué fills perhaps 15 percent of the cover, with a complex vine/flower design around it. The title is printed under the bottom right of the appliqué, with ALGER beneath it. Only 20 different titles have been seen, so it is probable that not all 54 titles were published using this format.

3. *The Erie Train Boy* (six cases) and *The Young Acrobat* (six cases) both were issued with a number of different complex cover designs (**with no appliquéés**) are were probably the earliest miniature Alger books published by Hurst. Of these 12 books that have been observed, five have inscription dates in the very early 1900s, prior to other Hurst miniatures seen with dated inscriptions.

To add further to this hypothesis, it is readily apparent that the earliest of these (surely *The Erie Train Boy*), started with similarly-sized H.M. Caldwell books with the same title. The inscription dates of the copies of this Hurst title are 1900, 1901 and 1902. This title was copyrighted in 1890, only a few years earlier. Both of these titles were later published by Hurst in other formats discussed in this article. It should be noted that the Caldwell editions of *The Erie Train Boy* that I have seen appear to be older and cruder than the Hursts, and **all** have appliquéés of various sizes placed in various locations on the front cover.

4. It seems apparent that that majority of the various formats of the Alger miniatures issued were limited to fewer than a dozen titles. While there are more than 50 titles overall and numerous covers, I have seen more of these titles only in format 2a (above). As noted, many titles as noted above in formats 2b and 2c may well have gone unpublished.

On the other hand, a few popular titles apparently exhausted the supply of appliquéés and new ones had to be made. The original and new appliquéés are, in at least six instances, visibly quite different, while the books' texts are the same. In five of the six cases, the hanging dagger format was used, while format 4f (below) was produced in the roses format.

The six known examples listed below are indicated

by reference to the appliqué design, with the older one noted by the presentation dates and the copyright notice clearly printed on the earlier appliquéés. The copyright notice was omitted on the reworked appliqué. Note, however, that there is no copyright notice on the earlier roses format, which quite obviously appeared some years later. Also note that formats 4e-1 and 4e-2 appeared only in *Bertha's Christmas Vision*, while the other five cover variations appeared on more than one book title.

Example 4a – Football game

(a-1) Runner is holding ball in two hands; 1907-1909 (older appliqué), © 1907.

(a-2) Runner is holding ball in one hand; 1908-1912.

Example 4b – Man at desk with office boy

(b-1) Office boy has left foot forward; 1901-1908 (older appliqué), © 1907.

(b-2) Office boy has right foot forward; 1908-1922.

Example 4c – Boy reading in front of fireplace

(c-1) Round-back chair in right-center position; 1908-1908 (older appliqué), © 1907.

(c-2) Square-back chair.

Example 4d – Bearded gentleman buying paper from newsboy

(d-1) Newsboy has right foot forward, 1907-1907 (older appliqué), © 1907.

(d-2) Newsboy has left foot forward, 1908-1922.

Example 4e – Three ladies having tea around table

(e-1) Ladies dressed in white; no pillow behind lady on right; 1900 (older appliqué), 1907.

(e-2) Ladies with bright, colored dresses; pillow behind lady on right, 1914.

Example 4f – Three boys in a canoe (Roses format)

(f-1) Boy in front has short hair; 1910-1911 (older appliqué); no copyright notice.

(f-2) Boy in front has long hair, or is wearing a cap, 1916-1919.

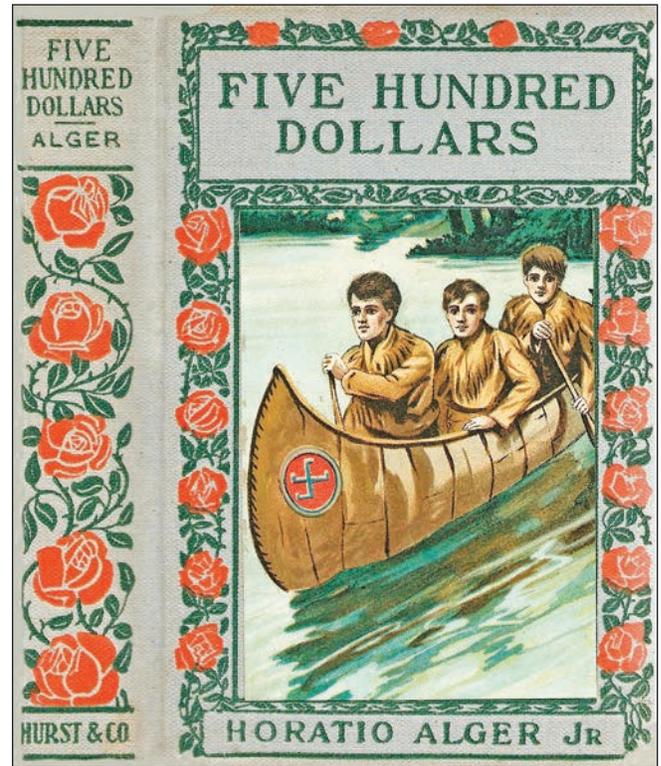
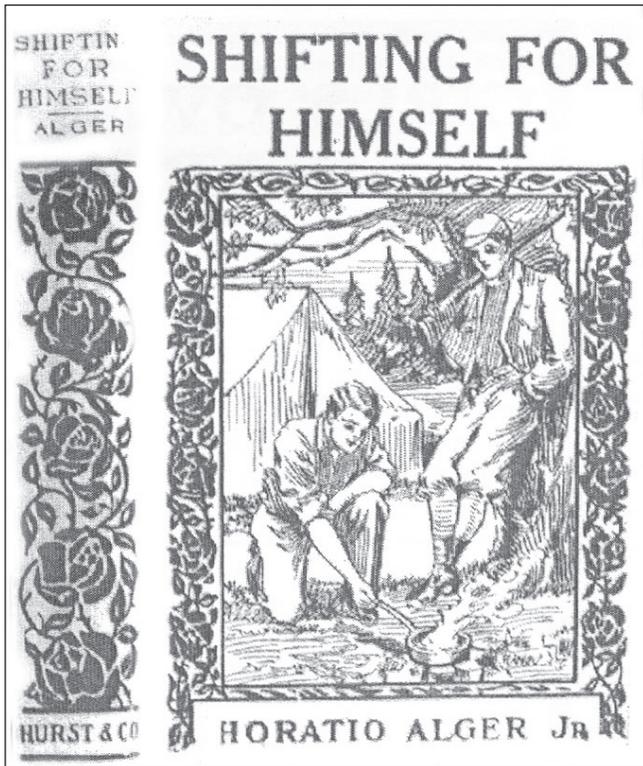
Size of the Hurst miniatures: The size of the front and back cover panels varies in height from 6l to 6m inches, with a width of 4 inches. When the rounded spine is added, the width is 4m inches.

The page size varies in height from 5e to 5o inches, with a width of 4 inches.

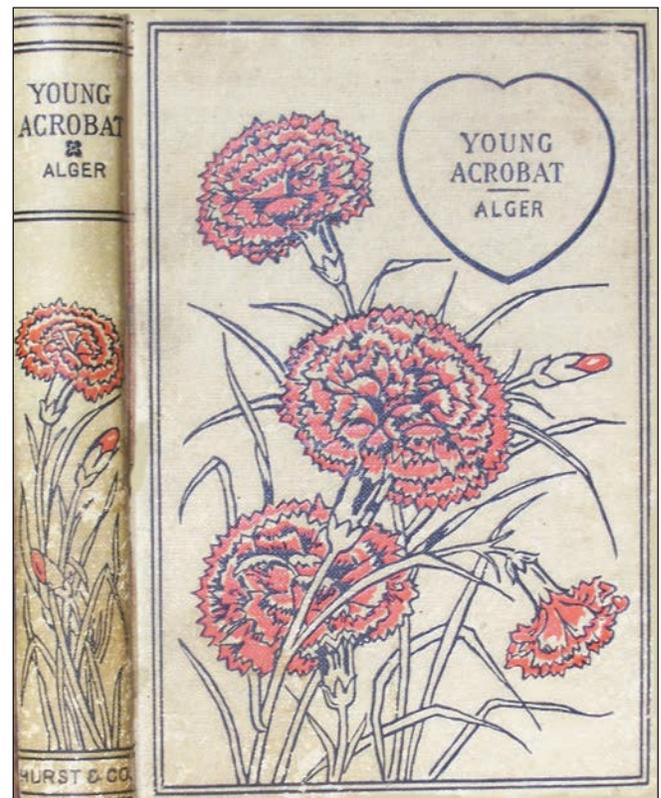
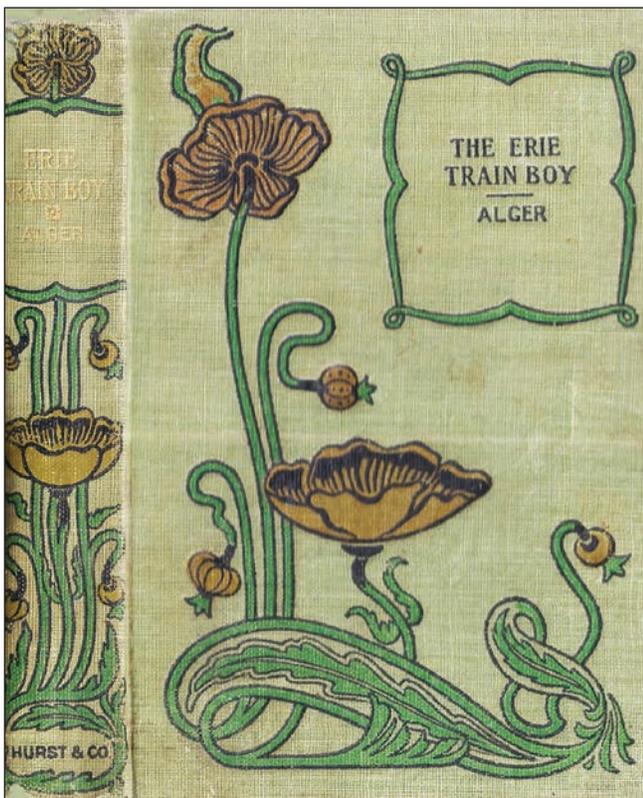
In more general terms, the pages are about 4 inches wide and a little less than 6 inches tall, while the cover adds about one-quarter inch in height and the rounded spine adds about three-eighths inch to the width.

Comments are appreciated and more than welcome. You can e-mail me at the address below. Note, too, that I am always eager to buy additional "little Hursts."

Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602)
1009 Rough Diamond Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301
E-mail: RolfeKitty@aol.com



An example of the dust jacket, left, and book (the latter with appliqué variation 4f-1), both in the "roses" format.



The Erie Train Boy and Young Acrobat came in various covers, and are probably the earliest Hurst miniatures.

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Background on Hurst — and a few printing terms

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

In his accompanying article, Rolfe Chase revisits the "little Hursts," an Alger reprint series he has collected for many years and first wrote about in the March-April, 1992 *Newsboy*. He decided it was time for an update because of additional information gathered in the intervening 12 years.

Because Rolfe's article is dedicated to the myriad formats in which these books came, I felt it important to provide a little background on the Hurst Publishing Company, along with a few other items of interest.

As for Hurst, I turned to Rolfe's brother, Brad Chase, who has authored a series of five books dealing with reprint publishers of Alger's books. He immediately dug into John W. Tebbel's *A History of Book Publishing in the United States* (Volume II, Page 492), and provided the following information:

Hurst and Company was formed in 1871 by Thomas D. Hurst, an electrotyper, who produced reprints of books in his shop on Nassau Street in New York City. His specialty was inexpensive, clothbound copies of standard works (called "twelvemos") and was among the first to make this kind of low-priced book.

Brad adds additional information from Cary Sternick's recently published *A Bibliography of 19th Century Children's Series Books* (page 11), which lists all of Hurst's known business locations in New York, as follows: 122 Nassau St. (1871-1889); 134 Grand Street (1890-1892); 135 Grand Street (-1894-1900); 395-399 Broadway (-1905-1913-); and 354 Fourth Ave. (-1919). (The hyphens show possible locations of the firm in the gaps for years missing in this sequence).

There is another interesting side note to the Hurst miniature Alger's.

Most of the books described in the accompanying article appeared in Hurst's **Boys' Own Library** (not to be confused with Street & Smith's and David McKay's publisher series of the same title). In addition to Alger, this series included books by several other authors, including "Oliver Optic" (William T. Adams) and Capt. Mayne Reid, along with a number of Jacob Abbot's "Rollo" books. Classics found in the miniature series included Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass* and Edward Everett Hale's *The Man Without a Country*.

However, the Hurst miniature of Alger's *Bertha's Christmas Vision* is different. Hurst advertised this title in its **Girls' Own Library** series, as shown on the dust

jacket reproduced on Page 12. This series, published in parallel with its **Boys' Own Library**, is filled out with such classics as Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* (plus *Through the Looking-Glass*, also found in the boys' series listing), Elizabeth Prentiss' *Six Little Princesses* and Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, among others. This may be one of the reasons why *Bertha's Christmas Vision* has been observed only in appliqué cover formats 4e-1 and 4e-2.

According to advertisements on dust jackets, Hurst charged 35 cents apiece for both its miniature editions as well as its regular-size (7½ x 5¼) Alger reprints.

One term noted above, "twelvemo" deserves explanation. This was the common pronunciation for one of the many book sizes created by printers dating back hundreds of years. Its formal pronunciation is *duodecimo*, derived from the Latin, and it indicates the number of times the paper was folded following printing, in relation to the original full-sized sheet of paper.

A *duodecimo*, or *12mo.*, is folded 12 ways. That results in 24 leaves (or 48 pages) of the book that you hold in your hand. As a result, 24 leaves would fit onto the original sheet of paper as it passes through the press. I know this sounds confusing, so we'll explain these terms in more detail.

The usual size of the leaf (each of its two sides called a page) of a *duodecimo* (*12mo.*), is approximately 7½ inches tall by 5¼ inches wide. This size varies slightly according to the type of presses and page-trimming equipment used by the publisher. The maximum size is around 8 x 5½ inches. Hurst, for example, utilized this larger size for its **Oakdale Series** (six volumes, 1911-13) and **Rex Kingdon Series** (five volumes, 1914-17), both written by Gilbert Patten under pseudonyms.

Hurst's most common Horatio Alger reprints, in its "Alger Series for Boys, American Boys Edition," came in the standard 7½ x 5¼ *12mo.* size, which was also used for the vast majority of series books produced early in the 20th century. For example, Grosset & Dunlap's many titles for the Stratemeyer Syndicate all came in that size, as did numerous books by A.L. Burt, Cupples & Leon, Henry Altemus, M.A. Donohue, etc., etc.

The Alger Hurst miniatures are another matter. They were published in *16mo.*, or in Latin, *sextodecimo*. The heights of the finished book's leaves were about 5½ inches, with a width of 4 inches. So, after the initial fold, 32 leaves can be accommodated on a sheet of paper as it passes through the printing press.

Additional sizes used in printing include *folio* (large, medium or small), which Currier & Ives made famous for their lithographs. The size of John James Audubon's ultra-scarce original 1827-39 edition of *The Birds of America*, was a "double elephant folio," a size approximately 36 inches by 24 inches. The last original edition of this book

brought to auction went for \$8.8 million at a New York sale in 2000. Individual hand water-colored plates by Robert Havell from this edition generally sell for between \$5,000 and \$175,000.

So, let's summarize:

A **sheet** is a large piece of paper, similar in size to an unfolded broadsheet newspaper such as **The New York Times** (24 x 36 inches in the "good old days" and about 22 x 28 inches, or even smaller, today). A newspaper sheet is usually folded once, into two leaves (four pages).

A **leaf**, therefore, is half a folded sheet, and each of its two sides comprises one **page** in the finished book. This process is multiplied as the size format of the finished book in question becomes smaller.

Therefore, for *folio* editions, each sheet is folded just once, into two leaves and four pages. These books are very large, as tall as 24 inches.

For a *quarto* (*4to.*), each sheet is folded twice, resulting in four leaves and eight pages. Today's coffee-table art books are around 14 x 11 inches (portrait perspective) or 11 x 14 (landscape perspective), close to the size of a traditional *quarto*, or half the size of a *folio* edition.

In an *octavo* (*8vo.*) edition each sheet is folded three times, resulting in 8 leaves and 16 pages; in a *duodecimo* (*12mo.*), each sheet is folded 12 times, making 24 leaves and 48 pages; and in a *sextodecimo* (*16mo.*), each sheet is folded 16 times, resulting in 32 leaves and 64 pages.

Today's hard-cover best-sellers of 9½ x 6½ inches are roughly the size of an *octavo*, while mass-market paperbacks are slightly smaller than a traditional *duodecimo*.

A folded group of leaves is called a **signature**, up to several dozen which are stitched together and bound into a finished book. The printer's bookbinding equipment will dictate the number of leaves in a signature, but for common *12mo.* series books of 240 pages, it appears that 8 leaves (16 pages) is the usual size of the signature, and a total of 15 signatures comprise the finished book.

If you look closely at an early 250-plus page Alger book, for example, one by Porter & Coates or Penn, a small number will be observed at the foot of every 16th page. So, on Page 17, a number 2 will appear, marking the beginning of the second signature, and so on. The 15th signature begins on Page 225, and if you divide 224 (the preceding number of pages) by 16, you get 14, the number of 16-page signatures at that point in the book.

When a book's text ends in mid-signature, the publisher will insert either a handful of blank leaves or leaves containing advertisements to round out a page count divisible by 16.

Please note that the number of *12mo.* signature folds (8 leaves, 16 pages) matches the parameters for *octavo* (*8mo.*) editions. This makes sense, because binding and trimming equipment can be set up to interchangeably accommodate the two most popular book sizes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

While going through some of the files at the Natick Historical Society and Museum in South Natick, Massachusetts, I encountered evidence of a publication written by Amos P. Cheney, husband of Olive Augusta Cheney and brother-in-law of Horatio Alger, Jr. Unfortunately, the Historical Society only had a reproduction of the front cover, not the actual publication. However, there was enough information present to initiate a search for this item, which I was able to locate a few weeks ago.

Natick, Massachusetts, Its Advantages for Residence and as a Place of Business was published in 1889. The pamphlet measures 2¾ x 5¼ inches and contains 32 pages (the cover is shown at right, in actual size). It was "prepared under the direction of the [Natick] Board of Selectmen" and printed by the Bulletin Steam Print in Natick. Initially, I thought this publication might contain a contribution from Augusta Cheney, or perhaps, Horatio Alger, Jr., but that is not the case.

Amos Cheney begins with a description of Natick's history from the early 1700s. As he noted, Natick is the aboriginal name signifying "a place of hills." Complete descriptions of local geography, bodies of water, scenery, parks and places of historical interest followed. Perhaps the most venerable location cited was the Unitarian Church in South Natick (where Horatio Alger, Sr. preached), which was the site of the first Indian church in America. The only reference to ministers is that "officiating clergymen are all able preachers." Of course, the senior Alger

had been dead for eight years before this publication appeared. Public libraries are prominently mentioned, including the Morse Institute Library in Natick and the Bacon Free Library in South Natick, where Cheney was previously employed as a librarian.

Several pages are devoted to town infrastructure including water works, fire department, schools, churches,

telegraph offices and transportation options. Natick was easily accessible to Boston (17 miles away) via the Boston & Albany Railroad. There were 16 daily trains between these two locations with a single fare costing 40 cents.

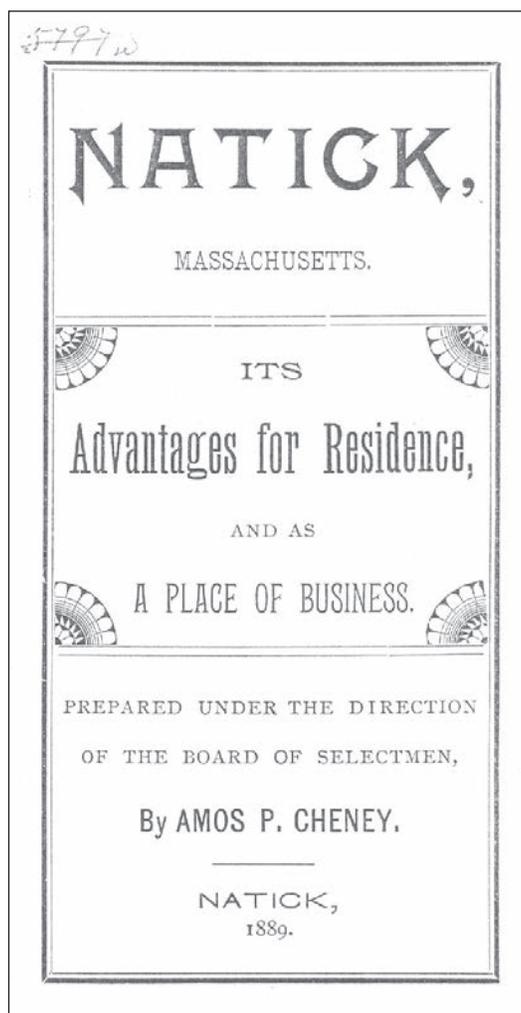
Natick's salubrious attributes are well documented with "plenty of pure air, an abundance of excellent water for all purposes, and the competent and efficient Board of Health now in service to look after and suppress all sources of danger to public health." Fifteen physicians were in residence and were "connected by telephone with all adjoining towns and villages."

Along list of fraternal groups and societies were itemized, including the Women's Suffrage League and no less than eight temperance organizations, but there was no mention of Augusta Cheney's involvement in these groups.

The only literary reference appears on page 12 referring to "South Natick [as] the village made famous, also, by Harriet Beecher Stowe in her well known book *Oldtown Folks*. Her husband, Professor Stowe, who figured as one of the prominent characters,

was a native of this village."

Sincerely,
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
Executive Director
Horatio Alger Society



Letters are always welcome! Send them to:

William R. Gowen
23726 N. Overhill Drive, Lake Zurich, IL 60047
E-mail: hasnewsboy@aol.com

Dear Bill:

I can't remember if I sent you this item or not. Below is some information on the database where I found the Alger letter. I think over 300 full-text Alger references came up, and this was among the first. Both Horatio Alger, Jr., and Horatio Alger, Sr., are represented. According to the reference set **Newspapers in Microform**, the **National Era** is a Washington, D.C., weekly newspaper published from Jan. 7, 1847, to March 22, 1860. This item (at right) was published April 26, 1855, in Vol. IX, No. 434.

I am hard at work on my Willie Morris book, a combination biography and annotated primary and annotated secondary bibliography. I just did annotation #965 the other day ... only about a thousand more to go!

I'm looking for photos, and was a bit floored when the N.Y. Times wanted 400 bucks for one of theirs. Forget that! I have leads for some good ones, and I realize now that I have a lot of good stuff that can be used. *E.g.*, Willie gave me the original manuscript of a speech he gave at the dedication of the Faulkner monument. I am going to have a photo of that taken. He gave me signed typescripts of his book. I have a ka-zillion letters of his. His son, a professional photographer, gave me a nice photo, and I've contacted other places.

Cordially,
Jack Bales (PF-258)
422 Greenbrier Court
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

The item at right is an anti-slavery resolution passed by the Church and Society of the Second Parish of Marlborough, Mass., and it includes a forwarding letter by the Rev. Horatio Alger, Sr., dated April 12, 1855.

Here's a portion of the background provided by Jack for American Periodicals Series Online, 1740-1900:

"This unique and valuable collection contains digitized images of the pages of American magazines and journals that originated between 1741, when Andrew Bradford's American Magazine and Benjamin Franklin's General Magazine were launched, and 1900. Derived from the acclaimed American Periodicals Series microfilm collection, APS Online features over 1,100 periodicals spanning nearly 200 years — from colonial times to the advent of American involvement in World War II. Titles range from America's first scientific journal, Medical Repository, to popular magazines like Vanity Fair and Ladies' Home Journal.

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CHURCH ACTION.

MARLBOROUGH, MIDDLESEX CO., MASS.,
April 12, 1855.

I send you below a copy of some resolutions on the subject of Slavery, recently passed, almost unanimously, by the Church and Society under my pastoral care. Your subscribers here would be glad to have them inserted in your paper, as an example to other religious bodies. Yours, truly, HORATIO ALGER.

Resolutions of the Church and Society of the Second Parish in Marlborough.

The Committee chosen July 2, 1854, to prepare something expressive of the feelings of this Church against the system of American Slavery, ask leave to present the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas Slavery, as it exists in this country, is wholly at war with every principle of justice and humanity, a direct violation of the precepts and doctrines of Jesus Christ, and a heinous sin in the sight of God; and whereas, upon a fair examination, we are convinced that the American Church, as at present constituted, is its greatest safeguard and defence, without whose support it must inevitably fall to atoms, and disappear from our land; and whereas a continuance of union and fellowship with the individual churches of our country, without discrimination, involves us in the guilt of being participators in this national wrong: Therefore,

Resolved, That we deem it the imperative duty of Christians, both as individuals and in their churches, to bear their decided and emphatic testimony against it, and in all justifiable and Christian ways to exert their influence for its destruction.

Resolved, That we do not recognise as a Christian, the slaveholder, or the apologist or defender of Slavery as it exists in our land; and that we decidedly protest against the admission of any one to our pulpit, excepting those who at all times set God's law above human enactments, and who have a voice to lift up boldly in behalf of universal freedom, peace, and temperance, as well as the other moral and religious interests of man.

Resolved, That we decline all such connection with other churches, calling themselves Christian, as shall implicate us in any degree or in any way in the guilt of upholding and perpetuating Slavery.

A. W. RICE,
S. PHELPS,
DENNIS WITHERBEE,

Committee of the Church in the Second Parish, Marlborough.

The above preamble and resolutions were adopted by the church in September last, and on the 25th of March last, at the annual parish meeting, by the whole parish.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

City hospital for treatment of an ailment when, right in the ambulance, he suffered a major heart attack. The fact that the EMTs and state-of-the-art equipment were right at hand proved the difference between life and death.

Bob sold his Alger collection about 10 years ago, not as a lot but singly and in smaller groups of books. I have one "Bennett book" in my collection, a Henry T. Coates edition of *Mark, the Match Boy*. It's not a first edition, of course, but it's still a book owned by Bob Bennett, which I treasure.

As you see, Bob was right. He knew that someday I'd become an Algerite.

* * *

In the previous issue of *Newsboy*, I had an article on the life and books of Everett T. Tomlinson, based on a talk I gave at last year's H.A.S. convention in Houston.

While preparing the article for publication in *Newsboy*, I searched in vain for a photo of Tomlinson. However, shortly after the article appeared, James D. Keeline (PF-898) e-mailed me the accompanying portrait, which was on a page of an article which also included "head shots" of fellow authors Horatio Alger, Jr. and Henry Shute. Although he mentioned that the quality of the pictures wasn't all that good in his scans, James felt I should have an opportunity to at least see what Tomlinson looked like.

By rescanning the image and reducing it in size, I've been able to make the photo presentable, and here it is. I'm guessing Tomlinson was in his early- to mid-50s

when this portrait was taken, placing it right after the turn of the century.

I also should take an opportunity to correct a few errors in the text of my article on Tomlinson and the accompanying piece on his publishers.

On Page 13 I say Lee & Shepard's **War of 1812 Series** was published in six volumes, while, in fact, it is seven volumes when we include the final book, *The Boy Sailors of 1812*, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard after a gap of 15 years from the previous volume in the series. I include this title correctly in the article on the publishers (Page 15) and in the list of Tomlinson's books on Pages 18-19.

For one of Tomlinson's adult novels, the correct title is *Exiled from Two Lands*, and the Lee & Shepard copyright is 1897, not *Exiled in Two Lands* and 1898, as I incorrectly said on Page 14. Also, in the publishers article, I incorrectly note that the **St. Lawrence Series** (1899-1902) was by Lothrop, Lee, & Shepard, when of course it was by Lee & Shepard.

In general, if you refer to the list of Tomlinson's books on Pages 18-

19, you'll be OK. I believe the list is accurate, although I won't stake my life on it!

Hopefully, I'll be able to turn up some biographical information on Tomlinson's son, Paul G. Tomlinson, whose books are also listed with my article. When I do, I'll write about him for *Newsboy*.

In closing, don't forget to return the enclosed green registration form for the 2004 H.A.S. convention—"Dash to DeKalb II."

A great program is planned. Also, a reminder to reserve your room at the University Guest Rooms Hotel for the special H.A.S. rate by calling (815) 753-1444.



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