



# THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

# NEWSBOY



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

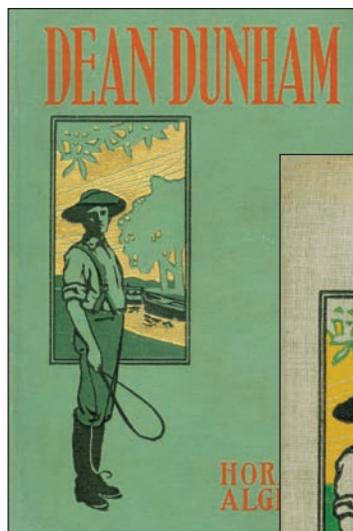
1832 - 1899

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

VOLUME LI

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013

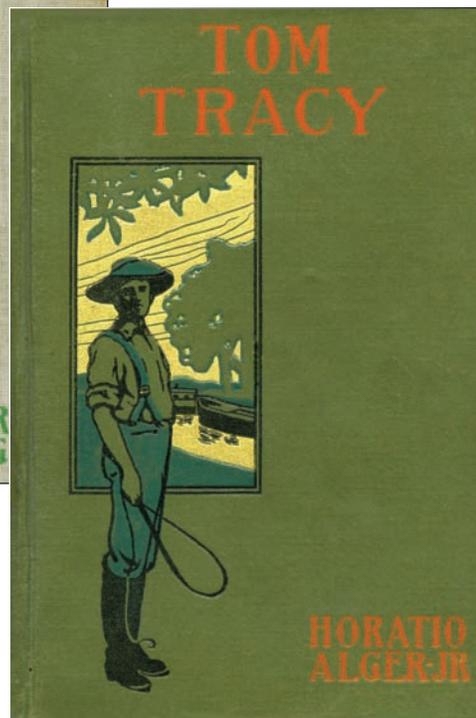
NUMBER 5



Street & Smith



Federal Book Co.



David McKay

## *Alger and beyond*

The authors, cover formats for the *Boys' Own Library*

-- See Page 3

*One of Horatio Alger's best-loved short stories*

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## President's column

Fall and winter, with their inspiring holidays, are the best seasons for Alger collectors. That's because few authors more inspiring than Horatio Alger, Jr. His message was one of hope and renewal. That message has inspired (and continues to inspire) hundreds of thousands.

Simply put, you can improve your lot if you (1) have good ethics; (2) work hard, and (3) get a lucky break. America's in the middle of hard times right now, and we need to keep believing that message.

Alger graduated from Harvard, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1852, and attended Harvard Divinity School from 1857 to 1860. Alger's rules of behavior for young people are much the same as those for any practicing Christian, especially "Don't steal" and "Don't lie." But Alger inspiration doesn't stop there. Hayim Greenberg (1889-1953), the American Judaism and Zionist thinker, romanticized Palestine as the new Jewish frontier, with Zionists as pioneers. He changed the perception of American Jews by drawing on the Pilgrim settlers of New England, the cowboys of the Wild West, and *Horatio Alger*.

Now, if you don't lean toward Christianity or Judaism, simply recall the New Year's Day is a time for renewal, no matter your religion. And *our* special holiday is January 13, Alger's birthday.

### Books to keep in mind

Begin your season at Thanksgiving by rereading *Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving* (A.K. Loring, 1875) It's a guidebook for having a great holiday and it ends with a marvelous message of thanks.

Right after that (in the same book), you'll find "St. Nicholas," a wonderful appeal to the "Good Christian saint." Alger advises to him to find gifts for "Homes where sad young faces wear / Painful marks of Want and Care." He concludes by reminding Santa that "No sad eyes should greet the morn / When the infant Christ was born."

In *Bertha's Christmas Vision* (Brown, Bazin, and Company, 1856), Bertha goes to bed thinking only of what St. Nicholas will put in her Christmas stocking. But then, three figures appear, saying they are "bringing gifts both rich and rare." They say: "Faith and Hope and Charity! / Earthly maiden, sisters three, / These the gifts we bear to thee." The values of faith, hope, and charity serve Bertha for the rest of her life

In *Bertha's Christmas Vision*, be sure to read "Little Floy; or, How a Miser was reclaimed." A little girl changes an

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## HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of *Strive & Succeed* that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series, pulps and dime novels.

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**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, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176**. These 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 advertisements or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. E-mail: [hasnewsboy@aol.com](mailto:hasnewsboy@aol.com)

# Alger and beyond

## The authors, cover formats for the *Boys' Own Library*

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The **Boys' Own Library** was a publisher's series produced by Street & Smith, with subsequent editions issued by Federal Book Company and David McKay.

According to John T. Dizer's research, **Publishers Weekly** No. 1548 of September 28, 1901, advertised the introduction of the **Boys' Own Library** as a series of 100 copyrighted hard-cover titles by Alger, Ellis, Otis, White and other celebrated authors. "They are the equal of the average \$1.50 publications save one, the price, which is just half," the notice said.

Offered at 75 cents apiece retail, the **Boys' Own Library** grew to 135 books as shown in late S&S ads. Just previously (and in some cases almost simultaneously), most of the same titles were also published at 10 cents apiece in its **Medal Library**, along with some titles in its **Bound to Win Library**. The S&S copyright applications for these stories were made in the early 1900s to include both soft- and hard-cover editions.

Why offer the same stories for 75 cents in hard cover when S&S was also selling them for a dime? The reason was the target audience. The **Medal Library** and other "thick" paperbacks were usually sold at corner newsstands, along with daily newspapers and weekly magazines. S&S aimed its hard-cover books at a more affluent buyer by selling them through large department stores like Macy's and John Wanamaker. However, more 10-cent editions wound up being sold than the 75-centers, and Street & Smith soon leased the BOL plates to Federal, while in 1906 David McKay of Philadelphia purchased them outright. McKay kept the price at 75 cents until lowering it to 50 cents by the late teens. Collectors find that McKay editions are more plentiful in today's used-book market than S&S and Federal editions.

### Authors in the Boys' Own Library

There are 32 names of authors listed in Street & Smith

THE CREAM OF JUVENILE FICTION

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**Boys' Own Library**

A SELECTION OF THE BEST BOOKS WRITTEN  
BY THE MOST POPULAR AUTHORS  
FOR BOYS.

---

The titles in this splendid juvenile series have been selected with care, and as a result all the stories can be relied upon for their excellence. They are bright and sparkling, not overburdened with lengthy descriptions but brimful of adventure from the first page to the last—in fact, they are just the kind of yarns that appeal strongly to the healthy boy who is fond of thrilling exploits and deeds of heroism. Among the authors whose names are included in Boys' Own Library are Horatio Alger, Jr., Edward S. Ellis, James Otis, Arthur M. Winfield and Frank H. Converse.  
Catalogues will gladly be sent, post free on application.

In Cloth.                      Attractive Covers.

Price, 75 cents per Volume.

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STREET AND SMITH, *New York and London.*

An early Street & Smith ad introducing the hard-cover Boys' Own Library.

advertisements for the **Boys' Own Library's** late listing of 135 book titles, although the number of actual authors varies slightly because of the use of pseudonyms. For example, William T. Adams, best known as "Oliver Optic," is represented in the BOL not by any of his "Optic" books, but for titles written under his "Gayle Winterton" and "Brooks McCormick" pen names. Also, the S&S house name "Lieut. Lionel Lounsberry" is used by at least two authors, and Edward Stratemeyer is listed not under his own name but by his two best-known personal pseudonyms.

"Burt L. Standish" is represented in some of the later McKay editions not only by the best-known Frank Merriwell "ghost," Gilbert Patten (William George Patten, 1886-1945), but by Indiana-born John Harvey Whitson (1854-1936) who filled in during the period 27 Jan 1900 to 5 Jan 1901, when Patten took a break from writing Merriwell stories to create the three-volume **Rockspur Athletic Series**.

Here is an alphabetical list of the authors in the **Boys' Own Library** during the S&S publication period. A few key additions by David McKay are also noted:

**Horatio Alger, Jr. (1832-1899)** – A total of 13 Alger titles were offered by Street & Smith, with a 14th title added after McKay took over the **Boys' Own Library** in 1906. (For a description of the 13 S&S Alger titles, see Page 10).

**"Capt. C.B. Ashley"** – A pseudonym for Charles Austin Fosdick (1842-1915), much better known by the pen name "Harry Castlemon." The only Ashley title represented in the **Boys' Own Library** is *Gilbert the Trapper*.

**"Annie Ashmore"** – A pen name for Mrs. J.M. Simpson. Her only title appearing in the **Boys' Own Library** is *The Smuggler's Cave*.

**"Capt Ralph Bonehill"** – This personal pseudonym of Edward Stratemeyer (1862-1930) is found on two **Boys'**

(Continued on Page 6)

## Editor's notebook

This issue contains an article I have been contemplating for some time: a look at the **Boys' Own Library**, a publisher's series introduced by Street & Smith at the turn of the 20th century and subsequently published by Federal Book Co. and David McKay. The article focuses on the 32 authors' names listed in later Street & Smith advertisements and the 15 cover designs advertised by McKay when that firm took over the series in 1906.

The "whys and wherefores" of the **Boys' Own Library** are not the subject of this piece: John T. Dizer covered that topic in his "Researching the Boys' Own Library — A Street & Smith Experiment," originally presented at the annual Popular Culture Association conference and subsequently published in **Dime Novel Round-Up** and as a chapter in his book *Tom Swift, The Bobbsey Twins and Other Heroes of American Juvenile Literature*.

Whether or not this "experiment" was a success, I'll let Dizer and others decide; this article focuses on the books as collectibles, describing who wrote them and showing the cover formats, which are presented in full color on Pages 8-9.

This article should be of interest to H.A.S. members because S&S decided to publish 13 Alger titles when it launched the BOL in 1901, the most of any author among the 135 titles issued by that publisher (McKay later added a 14th Alger, *The Backwoods Boy*). Also, most of them are not run-of-the-mill Alger titles, and three — *Mark Stanton*, *Tom Brace* and *Walter Griffith* — are the first hard-cover editions. A full breakdown of the 13 Alger titles as produced by S&S can be found on Page 10.

**Welcome back, Bomba!** In the March-April 2011 issue of *Newsboy* I discussed the 12 Bomba movies released between 1949 and 1955 starring Johnny Sheffield as the Stratemeyer Syndicate's jungle boy. Each Monogram/Allied Artists "Bomba" film runs about 70 minutes.

Up to now, a few of the Bomba films were only available on home video in low-quality prints; some of the DVDs were virtually unwatchable. But Warner Brothers, which now has the rights to the Allied Artists catalog, is offering the films in two three-DVD sets of six films each, in cleaned-up editions. Each set is available for \$29.95 (with free shipping) by visiting [www.warnerarchive.com](http://www.warnerarchive.com).

While they are a far cry from Academy Award material, these movies are fun to watch. Warners thus adds the "Bomba, the Jungle Boy" series to its previously released set of the four Bonita Granville "Nancy Drew" movies.

## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

old man from a cold and stingy miser into a warm, generous fellow. During the holidays, we should remember that we can do a lot to help people. We can do a lot to help ourselves, too.

### Christmas comes early for H.A.S.

I'm very happy to report that I've received a donation of 180 books, most of them Alger, from a woman in Atlanta. Her task was to send them to a "good home, where they would be read," and that's us. There was no charge (although I offered) and she paid shipping.

While most of them are reprints, there are a few hard-to-find editions, and a first edition or two. There are also some "finds," unusual because of their condition and completeness.

For example, there's a *complete* set of eight books (per the Mattson/Davis edition of Bob Bennett's Alger bibliography) from Aeonian Press, Leyden Mass. (1975). Each one, of course, has an introduction by Ralph Gardner. Except for some slight bumping at a corner or two, and a slight smudge or two, these books are in *pristine* condition. They should be sold as a lot.

For those who collect books other than Alger, this is a mind-blower. We have a *complete* set of 24 Chip Hilton sports books, most of them very tight, and many with dust jackets. The set starts with *Touchdown Pass* (1948) through *Hungry Hurler* (1965). There's an outlier, too. The last book in the series is *Fiery Fullback*, the original Clair Bee manuscript published by the author's descendants in 2002. You may know that "Since 1997, the NCAA has presented The Chip Hilton Player of the Year Award to a Division I men's basketball player who has demonstrated outstanding character, leadership, integrity, humility, sportsmanship and talent both on and off the court, similar to the fictional Chip Hilton character."

I'll be sending all the books to the convention for our auction.

### Convention reminder

Next year's convention (H.A.S. Convention 2014) will be in Annapolis, Maryland. Dick Hoffman is our host. It starts on Thursday, May 1, and we'll be staying at the Hampton Inn & Suites on Womack Drive. Dick has negotiated a great room rate, with bargains for our hospitality suite and meeting rooms.

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087)  
552 Brock Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
(530) 265-4705  
E-mail: [barry@wvswrite.com](mailto:barry@wvswrite.com)

# Horatio Alger interviews Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087)



**Editor's note:** On the 114th anniversary of Horatio Alger's death and his 181st birth year (he was born Jan. 13, 1832), Horatio Alger returns to earth to interview H.A.S. members regarding their Alger collections. This is the ninth in a series written by an anonymous author posing as Horatio Alger.

**H.A.:** Hello, is this Barry Schoenborn? Horatio Alger here.

**B.S.:** Yes, this is Barry. What a surprise!

**H.A.:** Am I pronouncing that correctly? You must be German.

**B.S.:** Yes sir, you are correct. My family comes from Wisconsin.

**H.A.:** President of the H.A.S., is that right?

**B.S.:** Yes, that's right.

**H.A.:** I'm 181 now, but I'm still pretty sharp. How long have you been President?

**B.S.:** Almost a year and a half now. I have less than one year left in my term.

**H.A.:** Enjoying it?

**B.S.:** Oh yes, very much.

**H.A.:** Where are you from, Barry?

**B.S.:** I live in California, a state where you set some of your stories.

**H.A.:** A beautiful state.

**B.S.:** I live in the Gold Country. You know about that. You wrote about it in *The Young Explorer*.

**H.A.:** I haven't spent too much time there, but I loved it. How did you get started in this Horatio Alger business?

**B.S.:** I grew up knowing your name, but I didn't clearly understand that you were the author of so many books. Then came a time where I was in a bookstore, and at last I found one of your books and I made the connection. AHA! That's him!! So I bought three books with your name on them and that was the start of my collecting.

**H.A.:** Now, when was that?

**B.S.:** It was about 1998.

**H.A.:** That was just about 15 years ago. Do you have a big collection now?

**B.S.:** Yes. I've come a great distance from three books. I believe it's a good collection.

**H.A.:** Tell me about it.

**B.S.:** There are 60 or 70 feet of shelf space in my home dedicated to your books. The vast majority are reprints of your titles in many, many different formats. I don't think I have too many, and it's a sign of how well published you have been. The best part of the collection is the first editions. I'm lucky to say that I have almost all of your first editions; I'm missing about ten.

**H.A.:** My word! That's pretty good for just 15 years.

**B.S.:** Actually, if you consider I've only been collecting seriously since I got involved with the Horatio Alger Society in 2005. I didn't come to a convention until 2006. So, I went from three books in 1998 to about 30 books in 2006 and now I have over 1,400 books. Can you believe that?

**H.A.:** You're kidding me. Gracious me!

**B.S.:** I kid you not. I love collecting your books, poems, lyrics, and stories in periodicals, too.

**H.A.:** I'm overwhelmed! What's your favorite book?

**B.S.:** I don't think this will surprise you a bit. My first and favorite will always be *Ragged Dick*.

**H.A.:** We should start a club. You and practically everyone I've interviewed tell me that's their favorite.

**B.S.:** I think with good reason. I have great respect for the books you wrote before *Ragged Dick*, but that one captured the hearts of thousands of boys in America,

much as it did my heart 125 years later.

**H.A.:** What else do you collect?

**B.S.:** Very little, other than books. No other boys' books, as you are my favorite. I have some books going back to 1598 and a few contemporary American and British first editions.

**H.A.:** Who is your favorite character, Richard Hunter?

**B.S.:** You are exactly right. Richard Hunter shows himself as a good, honest, clever boy. And Fosdick is a valuable partner. *Ragged Dick* prepared me to enjoy the other five books in the *Ragged Dick* Series, but for me, it remains the best. My second favorites are heroes from the farm country in New York — and you have more than one. Also there's usually a greedy squire, like Squire Walsingham in *Do and Dare*. And in some books,

(Continued on Page 6)



**Barry Schoenborn, who has around 1,400 books in his collection, is in the final year of his term as H.A.S. president.**

THE CREAM OF JUVENILE FICTION

**THE BOYS' OWN LIBRARY**

A Selection of the Best Books for Boys by the Most Popular Authors

THE titles in this splendid juvenile series have been selected with care, and as a result all the stories can be relied upon for their excellence. They are bright and sparkling; not over-burdened with lengthy descriptions, but brimful of adventure from the first page to the last—in fact they are just the kind of yarns that appeal strongly to the healthy boy who is fond of thrilling exploits and deeds of heroism. Among the authors whose names are included in the Boys' Own Library are Horatio Alger, Jr., Edward S. Ellis, James Otis, Capt. Ralph Bonehill, Burt L. Standish, Gilbert Patten and Frank H. Converse.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE BOYS' OWN LIBRARY

All the books in this series are copyrighted, printed on good paper, large type, illustrated, printed wrappers, handsome cloth covers stamped in inks and gold—fifteen special cover designs.

140 Titles—Price, per Volume, 75 cents

For sale by all booksellers, or sent, postpaid, on receipt of price by the publisher,

**DAVID MCKAY,**  
610 SO. WASHINGTON SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

David McKay advertisement, promoting 140 BOL titles in “fifteen special cover designs.”

## Boys' Own Library

(Continued from Page 3)

**Own Library** books: *Neka, the Boy Conjuror* and *Tour of the Zero Club*.

**Walter F. Bruns (1870-?)** – A writer for Frank Munsey's *Argosy*, Bruns is represented in the BOL by one title, *In the Sunk Lands*.

**“Harry Collingwood”** – A pseudonym for William J.C. Lancaster (1851-1922), a British author whose lone **Boys' Own Library** entry, *Pirate Island*, originally was published by Blackie & Sons and Scribner's in 1884, then became serial in **Golden Argosy** in 1887.

**Frank H. Converse (1843-1889)** – A prominent author of boys' stories whose work was published in periodicals edited by James Elverson, Frank Munsey and Frank Lovell, in addition for his work for Street & Smith. He has eight titles in the **Boys' Own Library**.

**George H. Coomer (1825-1901)** – Another prominent writer of youth stories, primarily for James Elverson's **Golden Days**. Two of his **Golden Argosy** serials wound up in the **Boys' Own Library**, *Boys in the Forecastle* and *Old Man of the Mountain*.

**William Dalton (1821-1875)** – A Canadian author with three books in the **Boys' Own Library**: *War Tiger*, *White Elephant* and *Tiger Prince*. Those books were originally published in Great Britain in the 1859-1863 period.

**Edward S. Ellis (1840-1916)** – One of the most well-read authors of boys' fiction, whose popularity is reflected in having eight titles in the **Boys' Own Library**.

**George Manville Fenn (1831-1909)** – A prominent British school

## Horatio Alger interviews Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087)

(Continued from Page 5)

the squire holds the mortgage on your hero's farm. Whenever there's a mortgage involved or a lost legacy of some sort, your heroes are always impressive in their efforts to save the farm.

**H.A.:** There are not many members of H.A.S. from the West Coast.

**B.S.:** Right, there are only a few in Oregon and California. Those states were territories when you were writing.

**H.A.:** Yes, that's right. Tell me, do you have a daytime job?

**B.S.:** I work at authoring books — a bit like you.

**H.A.:** Do you write fiction?

**B.S.:** No, not yet anyway. The books I write are designed to help people become better on their own. Definitely non-fiction.

**H.A.:** Self-help books?

**B.S.:** Yes, exactly.

**H.A.:** How many have you written?

**B.S.:** Four, so far.

**H.A.:** What's your favorite?

**B.S.:** *Math For Everyday Life*. There are two mathematics books and two medical books for people who study medicine. They sell well and will continue to do so. I think Richard Hunter would find the math books helpful.

**H.A.:** Do you have other hobbies?

**B.S.:** You may not believe this, but I take singing lessons.

**H.A.:** You do?

**B.S.:** Yes, it's never too late to learn.

**H.A.:** Anything you'd like to ask me?

**B.S.:** Yes. How were you able to produce so much in any given year?

**H.A.:** My simple answer: it just flowed. Once I started, I just could not stop. But I must say *Ragged Dick* was my breakout success, and then five follow-ups helped. You know, most of my books are similar or “formulaic,” as they say today — I hate that word!! Anything else?

**B.S.:** Only that it has been a great pleasure to meet you, sir.

**H.A.:** My pleasure, as well.

teacher and author who wrote historical adventures for such publishers as Beadle & Adams and Frank Munsey, along with Street & Smith. Fenn has five titles in the **Boys' Own Library**.

**"Ensign Clarke Fitch, U.S.N."** – A Street & Smith house name used by Henry Harrison Lewis (1863-1923), one of the firm's main editors, for its group of five Annapolis-based stories in the **Boys' Own Library**. These books are still often mistakenly attributed to Upton B. Sinclair (see "Frederick Garrison," below).

**"Lt. Frederick Garrison, U.S.A."** – A Street & Smith house name used by Upton B. Sinclair (1878-1968) for its group of five West Point-based stories found in the **Boys' Own Library**. [For a complete rundown on the publishing history of these 10 Annapolis and West Point books, please see Gowen, William R., "Upton Sinclair at Street & Smith: Clarifying an Old Sea Story." *Newsboy*, January-February 2011].

**William Murray Graydon (1864-1946)** – A very prolific writer of historical adventure stories, and well represented in the **Boys' Own Library** by 11 titles, all of them also in S&S's **Medal Library**, as were most of the 135 BOL titles listed by Street & Smith. Graydon also wrote under a number of pseudonyms for S&S and other publishers.

**"Headon Hill"** – A pseudonym for Francis Edward Grainger (1857-1924), represented in the **Boys' Own Library** by a single title, *Spectre Gold*.

**Henry Harrison Lewis (1863-1923)** – This Street & Smith editor and writer saw seven of his stories appear in the **Boys' Own Library** under his own name, in addition to the five "Ensign Clarke Fitch" stories, along with "Lounsberry" and "Sewall" titles, noted below.

**"Lieut. Lionel Lounsberry"** – This S&S house name was used by several writers over the years, with 10 "Lounsberry" titles found in the **Boys' Own Library**. For the four "Kit Carey" West Point stories, the actual writer was famous dime novelist Col. Prentiss Ingraham (1843-1904). The remaining "Lounsberry" titles were authored by Henry Harrison Lewis, whose *Tom Truxton's School Days* and *Tom Truxton's Ocean Trip* had earlier appeared in **Good News** under the byline "Harvey Hicks."

**"Brooks McCormick"** – A pen name used by William T. Adams (1822-1897). Four "McCormick" titles are in the **Boys' Own Library**: *The Giant Islanders*, *How He Won*, *Nature's Young Noblemen* and *The Rival Battalions*.

**"Walter Morris"** – A pen name used by James Otis Kaler (1848-1912) for one book in the **Boys' Own Library**, *Bob Porter at Lakeview Academy*. This was originally an 1892 serial in **Good News** and appeared in "thick" paperback editions in S&S's **Brave and Bold Library** and **Bound to Win Library**.

**"Stanley Norris"** – A shared use of this house name is found in the **Boys' Own Library**. Known also as part of the

**Circus Series** (see entry for "Victor St. Clair, below), two titles, *Phil, the Showman* and *The Young Showman's Rivals*, were authored by Ernest A. Young (1858-1936), while *The Young Showman's Pluck* and *The Young Showman's Triumph* were co-authored by William Wallace Cook (1867-1933) and Lurana Waterhouse Sheldon (1862-1945).

**"Lt. James K. Orton"** – Another pseudonym used by James Otis Kaler, with four books under this pen name found in the **Boys' Own Library**: *Beach Boy Joe*, *Last Chance Mine*, *The Secret Chart* and *Tom Havens with the White Squadron*.

**"James Otis"** – By far the most famous pen name of James Otis Kaler, the prolific Maine-born author whose best-known work is *Toby Tyler; or, Ten Weeks with the Circus* (1880). Kaler's five books under his "Otis" name appearing in the **Boys' Own Library** are *Chased Through Norway*, *Inland Waterways*, *Reuben Green's Adventures at Yale*, *An Unprovoked Mutiny* and *Wheeling for Fortune*.

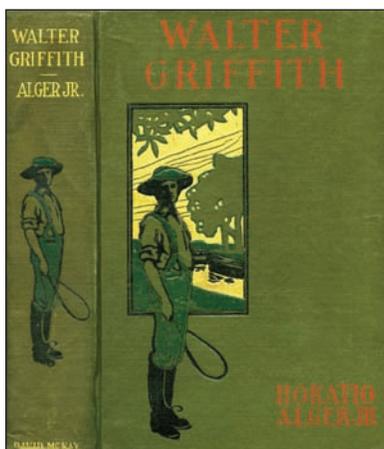
**Gilbert Patten (1866-1945)** – In addition to the Frank Merriwell books (see below), Patten is represented in the **Boys' Own Library** by nine titles under his own name. They include, in the Street & Smith listing, five "single" titles originally serialized in **Good News**: *The Boy Boomers*, *The Boy Cattle King*, *The Boy From the West*, *Don Kirk's Mine* and *Jud and Joe*. Later, when McKay took over the **Boys' Own Library**, *The Deadwood Trail*, a title originally published in hard cover by D. Appleton & Co. in 1904, was added, along with the the three-volume **Rockspur Athletic Series**, originally issued as a separate series by Street & Smith. (NOTE: McKay's **Clif Stirling Series**, written by Patten, was not part of the **Boys' Own Library**).

**St. George Rathborne (1854-1938)** – This very famous dime novel writer is represented in the S&S **Boys' Own Library** listing by five books, including the stand-alone **Camp and Canoe Series** (three titles) and the "singles" *The Gulf Cruisers* and *Shifting Winds*. Rathborne's 1901-02 S&S stand-alone **Ranch and Range Series** (three titles) was added when David McKay took over the BOL.

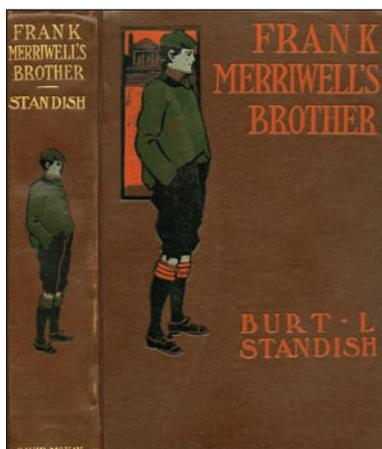
**"Victor St. Clair"** – This pseudonym was used by noted dime novel writer George Waldo Browne (1851-1930) for six titles appearing in the **Boys' Own Library**: *Cast Away in the Jungle*; *For Home and Honor*; *From Switch to Lever*; *Little Snap, the Postboy*; *Zig-Zag the Boy Conjuror* and *Zip, the Acrobat*. The latter two titles are often grouped as part of the **Circus Series** (see entry on "Stanley Norris," above). The St. Clair title *Cast Away in the Jungle* was added by David McKay.

**"Arthur Sewall"** – Another pseudonym used by Henry Harrison Lewis while an editor at Street & Smith. His lone BOL book using this pen name is *Gay Dashleigh's Academy Days*, another story originally appearing as a serial in **Good News**. S&S advertisements often mis-

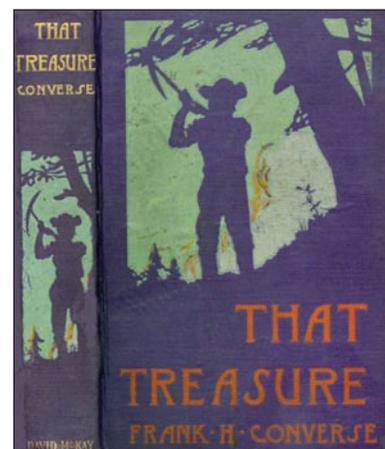
(Continued on Page 9)



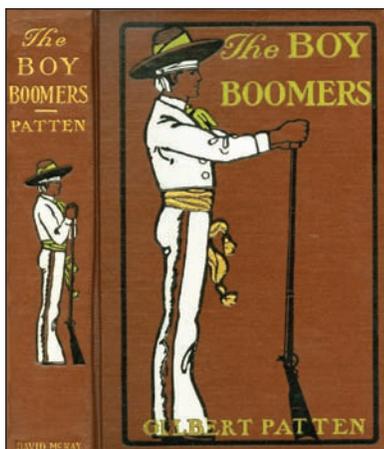
**Cover:** *Boy With Whip* (dark olive green)  
**Primary author:** Horatio Alger, Jr.  
**Other author:** "Victor St. Clair" (G. Waldo Browne)  
**Street & Smith color:** Medium bluish-green



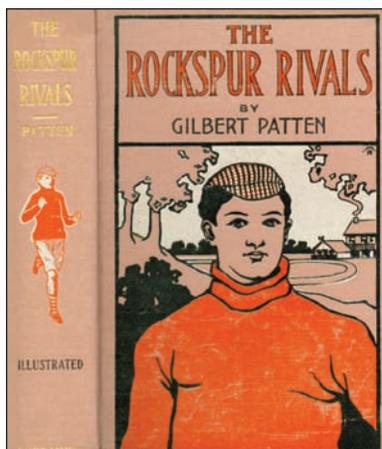
**Cover:** *Prep School Boy* (chocolate brown)  
**Primary author:** "Burt L. Standish" (Gilbert Patten)  
**Other author:** "James Otis" (James Otis Kaler)  
**Street & Smith color:** Medium slate-green



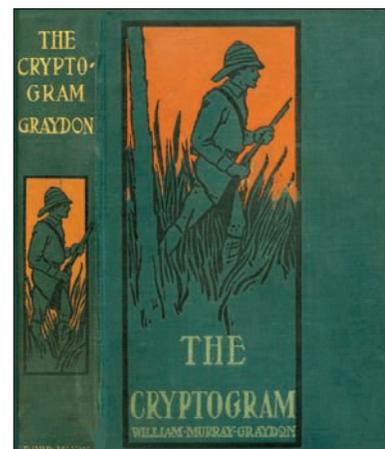
**Cover:** *Prospector* (purple)  
**Primary author:** Frank H. Converse  
**Other authors:** W.F. Bruns, J.K. Orton, Headon Hill  
**Street & Smith color:** Dark blue-purple



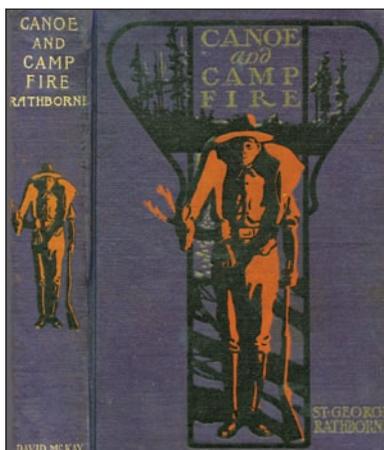
**Cover:** *Gaucha with Rifle* (medium reddish-brown)  
**Primary author:** Gilbert Patten  
**Other authors:** None observed  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



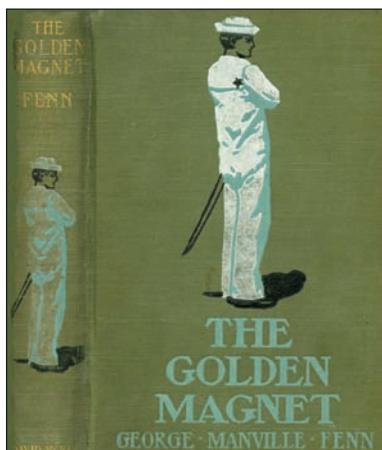
**Cover:** *Rockspur Schoolboy* (light pink-tan)  
**Primary author:** Gilbert Patten  
**Other authors:** (Original S&S *Rockspur Series*)  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



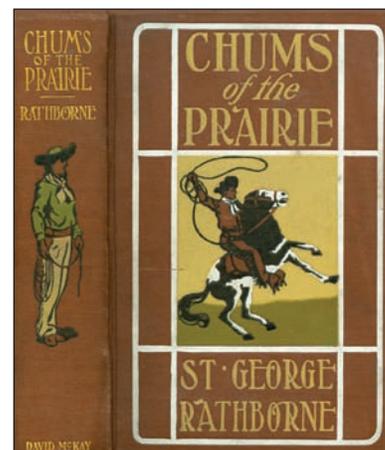
**Cover:** *Hunter on Safari* (dark green)  
**Primary author:** William Murray Graydon  
**Other authors:** George Coomer, "Victor St. Clair"  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



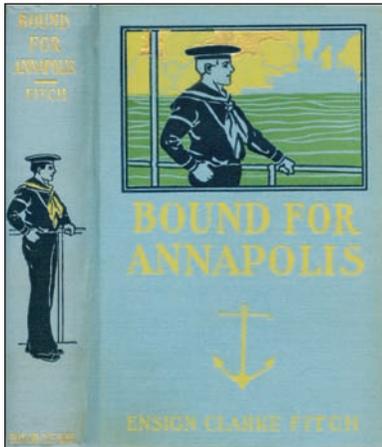
**Cover:** *Outdoorsman* (purple)  
**Primary author:** St. George Rathborne  
**Other authors:** Original S&S *Camp & Canoe Series*  
**Street & Smith color:** Dark blue-purple



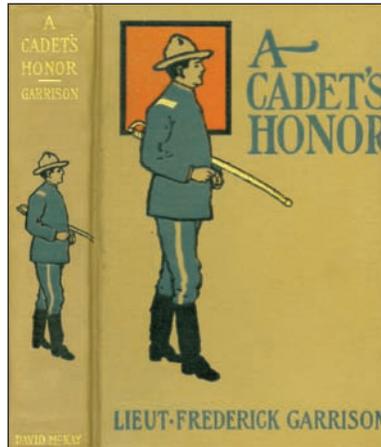
**Cover:** *Sailor in White* (olive green)  
**Primary author:** George Manville Fenn  
**Other authors:** "Lt. J.K. Orton," Harry Collingwood  
**Street & Smith color:** Pastel orange (peach)



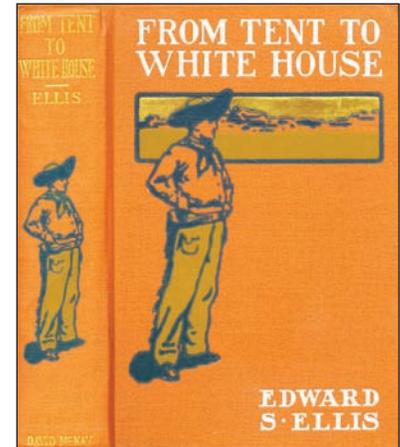
**Cover:** *Cowboy with Lasso* (medium brown)  
**Primary author:** St. George Rathborne  
**Other authors:** Original S&S *Ranch & Range Series*  
**Street & Smith color:** Salmon-pink



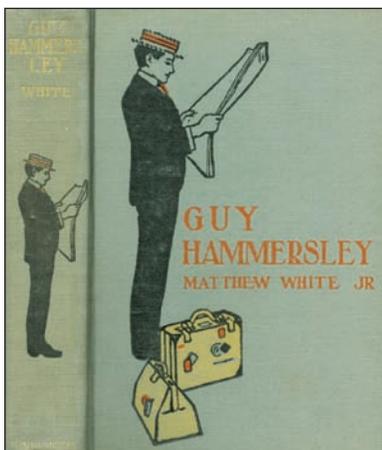
**Cover:** Navy Midshipman (light blue)  
**Primary author:** Henry Harrison Lewis; also titles under Lewis pseudonyms "Ensign Clarke Fitch" and "Lieut. Lionel Lounsberry"  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



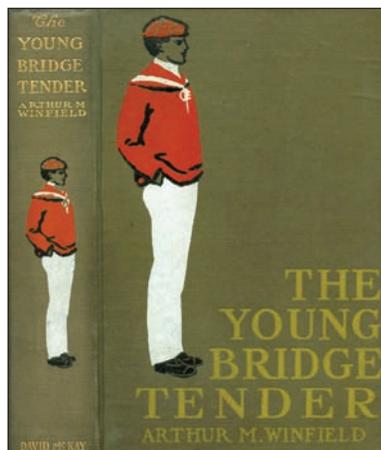
**Cover:** Army Cadet (beige tan)  
**Primary authors:** "Lieut. Frederick Garrison" (Upton B. Sinclair); "Lieut. Lionel Lounsberry" (Henry Harrison Lewis and/or Prentiss Ingraham)  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



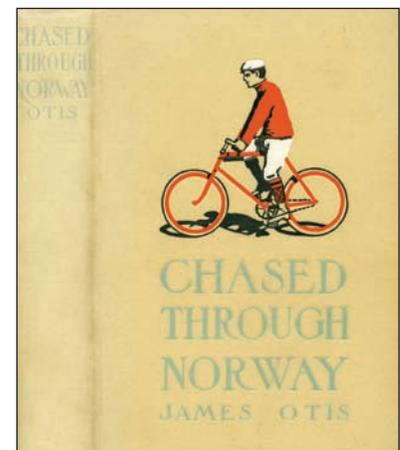
**Cover:** Cowboy, standing (orange)  
**Primary author:** Edward S. Ellis  
**Other authors:** "Capt. C.B. Ashley" (Charles A. Fosdick); "Capt. David Southwick"  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



**Cover:** Boy Waiting for Train (light bluish-green)  
**Primary author:** Matthew White, Jr.  
**Other authors:** "Capt. Ralph Bonehill" (Edward Stratemeyer); "Gayle Winton" (William T. Adams); "Victor St. Clair" (George Waldo Browne)  
**Street & Smith color:** Medium slate-gray



**Cover:** Boy in Red Sweater (olive green)  
**Primary authors:** "Arthur M. Winfield" (E. Stratemeyer); "Brooks McCormick" (William T. Adams)  
**Other authors:** "Stanley Norris" (William Wallace Cook); "Arthur Sewall" (Henry Harrison Lewis)  
**Street & Smith color:** Same



**Cover:** Boy on Bicycle (ivory-fleshstone)  
**Primary author:** "James Otis" (James Otis Kaler)  
**Other author:** Ernest A. Young  
**Note:** This cover appeared in S&S and Federal editions only. These titles were issued by McKay in the *Prep School Boy* chocolate-brown format.

## Boys' Own Library

(Continued from Page 7)

spelled his last name as "Sewell."

**"Capt. David Southwick"** – A pseudonym used by John Mortimer Murphy. The only title found in the **Boys' Own Library** is *Jack Wheeler*.

**"Burt L. Standish"** – This is Gilbert Patten's most famous pseudonym, used for the Frank Merriwell stories originating in S&S's **Tip Top Weekly** starting in 1896. For the "thick" Merriwell stories appearing in the **Medal Library** and **Boys' Own Library** (as well as later in the very popular S&S **Merriwell Series**), four **Tip Top Weekly** stories were combined and edited into novel length,

approximately 300 pages. Street & Smith introduced the hard-cover Merriwells as a stand-alone series in 1900, later adding the books to the **Boys' Own Library** in two phases of three books each, with six total titles appearing in the S&S and Federal versions. When McKay took over publication in 1906, that firm gradually increased the Merriwells to 28 titles. Several of the later McKay titles were from **Tip Top Weekly** stories written by John Harvey Whitson while Patten was on hiatus in 1901.

**Matthew White, Jr. (1857-1940)** – A well-known editor and writer for Frank Munsey (he edited **Golden Argosy**), White also was well represented in such Street & Smith publications as **Good News** and **Army and Navy Weekly**.

(Continued on Page 11)

# The 13 Alger titles in the S&S Boys' Own Library

Titles are listed alphabetically, with Street & Smith copyright application year in parentheses. A 14th title, *The Backwoods Boy*, was added later by David McKay

## *Adventures of a Telegraph Boy* (1900)

First serialized as "Number 91" in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 179-199 (8 May 1886-25 Sept 1886) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier as *Number 91* in Frank Munsey's **Popular Series** No. 5 (1887), as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in Frank Lovell's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 22 (1890) under the title *Number 91*, as by Arthur Lee Putnam; and as *Adventures of a New York Telegraph Boy* in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 53 (17 March 1900). First hard-cover edition: Published under the title *Number 91*, as by Arthur Lee Putnam in John Lovell's **Rugby Edition**, 1889.

## *Dean Dunham* (1900)

First serialized in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 298-310 (18 Aug 1888-10 Nov 1888); published earlier in U.S. Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 32 (1890); serialized in **Army and Navy Weekly** Nos. 10-21 (1897); published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 50 (24 Feb 1900). First hard-cover edition: American Publishers Corporation's **Berkeley Series**, ca. 1894.

## *The Erie Train Boy* (1900)

First serialized in **Argosy** Nos. 370-382 (4 Jan 1890-29 March 1890); published earlier in U.S. Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 26 (1890); published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 61 (12 May 1900). First hard-cover edition: American Publishers Corporation's **Berkeley Series**, ca. 1894.

## *The Five Hundred Dollar Check* (1901)

First serialized as "\$500; or, Jacob Marlowe's Secret" in **Argosy** in 1888-89; published earlier in U.S. Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 23 (1890); serialized in **Good News** in 1897; published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 87 (10 Nov 1900). First hard-cover edition: transitional Porter & Coates/Lovell edition with the words "Porter & Coates" covered by a black strip at base of spine.

## *From Canal Boy to President* (1901)

Published earlier by John R. Anderson & Co. in 1881; published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 130 (7 Sept 1901). The Anderson edition is the first hard-cover edition; the earliest state transposes pages 266 and 268, noted with a small tipped-in erratum slip.

## *From Farm Boy to Senator* (1900)

Published earlier by J.S. Ogilvie & Co., 1882; published earlier in wraps in J.S. Ogilvie's **The Red Cover Series** No. 25 (Oct 1888); published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 52 (10 March 1900). The 1882 J.S. Ogilvie edition is the first hard-cover edition.

## *Mark Stanton* (1900)

Published earlier in U.S. Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 25 (1890) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier as *Both Sides of the Continent* in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 78 (8 Sept 1900). The Street & Smith **Boys' Own Library** edition is the first hard-cover edition of this title.

## *Ned Newton* (1901)

First serialized in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 227-252 (9 April 1887-1 Oct 1887) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in U.S. Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 24 (1890) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 118 (15 Jun 1901) as by Horatio Alger, Jr. First hard-cover edition: American Publishers Corporation's **Berkeley Series**, ca. 1894, as by Arthur Lee Putnam.

## *A New York Boy* (1901)

First serialized in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 282-295 (28 April 1888-28 July 1888) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in U.S. Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 30 (1890) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; serialized as "A Diamond in the Rough" in **Army and Navy Weekly** in 1898 as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 93 (22 Dec 1900) as by Horatio Alger, Jr. First hard-cover edition: American Publishers Corporation's **Berkeley Series**, ca. 1894, as by Arthur Lee Putnam.

## *Tom Brace* (1901)

First serialized in **Argosy** Nos. 325-338 (23 Feb 1889-25 May 1889) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 122 (13 July 1901) as by Horatio Alger, Jr. The Street & Smith **Boys' Own Library** edition is the first hard-cover edition of this title.

## *Tom Tracy* (1900)

First serialized in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 199-214 (25 Sept 1886-8 Jan 1887) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in Frank Munsey's **Popular Series** No. 10 (1888) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published in Frank Lovell's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 21 (1890) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published earlier in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 51 (3 March 1900). First hard-cover edition: John Lovell's **Rugby Edition**, 1890, as by Arthur Lee Putnam.

## *Walter Griffith* (1901)

First serialized as "Walter Griffith" in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 255-267 (22 Oct 1887-14 Jan 1888) as by Arthur Lee Putnam; published as *Striving for Fortune* in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 138 (23 Nov 1901) as by Horatio Alger, Jr. First hard-cover edition: the Street & Smith **Boys' Own Library** edition is "first thus"; the alternate title *Striving for Fortune* did not appear in hard cover.

## *The Young Acrobat* (1900)

First serialized as "The Young Acrobat of the Great North American Circus" in **Golden Argosy** Nos. 230-246 (30 April 1887-20 Aug 1887); published earlier in Frank Munsey's **Popular Series** No. 8 (1888); published earlier in Frank Lovell's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance** No. 20 (1890); serialized in **Bright Days** Nos. 6-20 (1896); serialized as "Kit Watson's Triumph" in **Half Holiday** Nos. 1-13 (1898); published earlier as *The Young Acrobat of the Great North American Circus* in Street & Smith's **Medal Library** No. 42 (30 Dec 1899); reprinted in Street & Smith's **Brave and Bold Library** No. 68 (1904). First hard-cover edition: John Lovell's **Rugby Edition**, 1890, in versions by Horatio Alger, Jr. and his Arthur Lee Putnam pen name.

## Boys' Own Library

(Continued from Page 9)

His six titles in the **Boys' Own Library** are *Adventures of a Young Athlete*, *Eric Dane*, *Guy Hammersley*, *My Mysterious Fortune*, *Tour of a Private Car* and *The Young Editor*, all derived from **Golden Argosy** or **Argosy** stories.

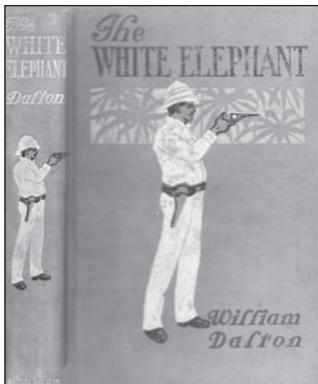
**"Arthur M. Winfield"** – This was Edward Stratemeyer's most-often-used personal pen name, found on **The Rover Boys Series** and many other stories and books. The three "Winfield" titles in the **Boys' Own Library** are *Mark Dale's Stage Venture*, *The Young Bridge Tender* and *The Young Bank Clerk*.

**"Gayle Winterton"** – Another pseudonym used by William T. Adams. The only "Winterton" title appearing in the **Boys' Own Library** is *The Young Actor*, first serialized in **Argosy** and in 1890 appearing in wraps in United States Book Company's **Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance**, No. 27.

**Ernest A. Young (1858-1936)** – Also appearing in the BOL under the "Stanley Norris" pseudonym (see above), this prolific dime novel writer's only **Boys' Own Library** book under his own name is *Boats, Bats and Bicycles*, derived from an 1895 **Good News** serial.

### The S&S and McKay cover formats

When David McKay assumed publication of the **Boys' Own Library**, it advertised "...handsome cloth covers stamped in inks and gold – fifteen special cover designs." Fourteen of those covers are shown on Pages 8 and 9 in



full color, with the 15th design (for books by William Dalton) reproduced at left. Essentially, these covers are the same as those introduced by Street & Smith, with the following explanations:

**Spine illustrations** – McKay introduced the spine illustrations (derived from the front-cover illustrations), probably as a

means to make the books more attractive to buyers. When sitting on a shelf, the S&S covers, with plain spines, are much less attractive. The one exception is the **Rockspur Athletic Series** books by Gilbert Patten. Because those were written especially for the hard-cover trade in 1900-1901, S&S spruced them up with spine illustrations, and even printed part of the title page in red ink. The Rockspur books were originally projected for six titles, but the series was stopped at three, and the books were later folded into the **Boys' Own Library** by David McKay.

**Spine lettering** – For years, this was a bone of contention among collectors. Did the original Street & Smith printings come in gold lettering or colored-ink lettering on the spines? Although Bob Bennett states gold came first in his Alger bibliography, that is simply not true. The Algiers with red spine lettering came first and the gold later. This is evidenced in part by the Rockspur books originally issued with black, not gold, spine lettering.

Even more convincing are the Frank Merriwell books. Like the Rockspurs, they were originally advertised by S&S as a stand-alone series with three titles; then, when three more titles were added, the Merriwells joined the BOL. The first three green S&S Merriwell books have been observed only with red-orange spine lettering, while the following three titles have gold lettering. Also, various gift inscriptions in the S&S books, while not exact science, point to solid-ink lettering coming first.

Other solid-color spine lettering observed on S&S editions include white lettering for both the Gilbert Patten "Gaucho" cover books and Edward Ellis orange "Cowboy" books; slate blue lettering for the Garrison and Lounsbury titles in the tan "Army Cadet" cover; and dark orange for early books in the "Prospector" cover.

**Cloth color** – Ten of the McKay covers are essentially the same color cloth as their S&S counterparts; the other five were changed by McKay to a different color. For example, the bluish-green S&S Algiers became dark olive green in the McKay editions. The Federal **Boys' Own Library** editions used cheaper cloth bindings of various colors, gray being the most common color observed.

**Late McKay bindings** – At some later point, probably in the mid- to late teens, David McKay reprinted selected **Boys' Own Library** titles in a cheaper cream-colored cloth binding with black lettering; some illustrations were removed as further cost savings. These versions first stayed at 75 cents, then were dropped to 50 cents. In the case of the Frank Merriwell books, McKay added 18 more titles in the chocolate-brown binding at 75 cents. McKay then reprinted the entire 28 titles in the cream binding, with later reprints reduced to 50 cents, with no frontispiece and cheaper paper quality. The final four Merriwells are only available in the cream binding.

**Other David McKay editions** – When the addition of the Merriwell titles grew McKay's BOL total to about 156 (along with dropping several less-popular titles), it kept in the cheaper cream cloth the "St Clair" and "Norris" circus titles as the stand-alone **Circus Series**. It did the same with the six Matthew White, Jr. titles, advertising them in 50-cent editions as the **Matthew White Series**.

However, McKay collected eight of its better-selling BOL titles into a catch-all series called the **Famous Adventure Series**, again in the cheaper cream binding. They were

(Continued on Page 12)

## Boys' Own Library

(Continued from Page 11)

*Voyage to the Gold Coast* and *In Search of an Unknown Race* by Frank Converse; *The Camp in the Snow* and *From Lake To Wilderness* by William Murray Graydon; *Centreboard Jim* and *King of the Island* by Henry Harrison Lewis; *How He Won* by "Brooks McCormick" and *Tom Havens with the White Squadron* by "Lieut. James K Orton."

\* \* \*

**Acknowledgements:** The author wishes to thank the following:

- Robert E. Kasper (PF-327) for his assistance in providing additional details and corrections to the list of 13 **Boys' Own Library** Horatio Alger books on Page 10.
- James D. Keeline (PF-898) for the wealth of information on the **Boys' Own Library** in his upcoming *Series Book Encyclopedia*, including identity of pseudonyms, original source material and dates of publication.
- Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879), for assisting with various BOL cover formats and providing information on the late David McKay printings, including the little-known **Famous Adventure Series**.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Bill:

Hope you are well. We are nearly ready to build an ark and float away after the plethora of rain that we've seen this summer.

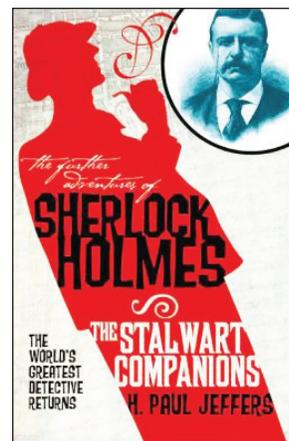
I just finished reading a Sherlock Holmes pastiche. I know that there is nothing unusual about that. Half of the books on the market these days seem to be Holmesian pastiches ... which is not necessarily a compliment.

Anyhow, this is Sherlock, pre-Watson, solving cases with Teddy Roosevelt. It is called *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Stalwart Companions*, by H. Paul Jeffers, published by Titan Books in 2010. I picked it up at a recent library sale.

And my reason for telling you this? It is that Holmes and Roosevelt pay a visit to Father John Christopher Drumgoole at his home for homeless newsboys. Holmes proceeds to recruit an American version of his Irregulars from the ranks of the newsies. There are several chapters concerning the newsies and an explanatory bit of info in the back of the book concerning Drumgoole and his newspaper "Homeless Child" and such like.

I thought some of the Algerists might be charmed to find the material, so I thought I'd let you and our fellow H.A.S. members know.

Sincerely,  
Alan Pickrell (PF-965)  
223 King Street  
Abingdon, VA 24210



**Editor's note:** Excerpts from the Wikipedia.com entry for *Father John Christopher Drumgoole*:

Fr. John Christopher Drumgoole (1816-1888) was an Irish Roman Catholic priest. He emigrated to the United States at the age of 9 from his native home of Granard, County Longford, Ireland. He became an ordained priest at the age of 52. He worked tirelessly to help homeless youth in New York City and founded the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin in Manhattan in 1871.

He was a hero of the newsboys who thronged the area when Park Row was the headquarters of New York City's major newspapers, including *The New York Times*. Fr. Drumgoole is named the unofficial patron saint of the homeless, orphans, and the less fortunate.



Dear Bill:

Perhaps our readership might enjoy learning how I occupy my time when searching for books proves unproductive. Like most collectors, I enjoy the hunt as much as the actual acquisition, so having alternatives provides me with time spent pleurably. As I stated in an earlier letter (*Editor's note: See Newsboy issue of November-December 2011*), I have been collecting older airmail covers (envelopes with airmail stamps that have been through the postal system) for some time.

Along with the those covers, I also enjoy searching for covers that have some relation to the books I collect. These can be envelopes from a literary source (i.e., book publishers, authors, newspapers, etc.), envelopes related to a literary subject, envelopes that carry stamps that depict authors or publishing history, or some combination of these.

As an example, in 1939 the Post Office issued a stamp commemorating the 300th anniversary of Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. We are all familiar with the stamp issued in 1982 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Horatio Alger's birth. Also, in 1940, the Post Office issued a series of 35 stamps honoring famous Americans; five of these stamps picture authors (unfortunately, none including Alger).

Many cities have stamp shows, which usually include numerous dealers selling postal covers. One can sit and look through them much as one would a box of postcards, searching for anything of interest in the book category. Online auctions can also be productive; eBay has an entire category for stamps, which is broken down so that one can search just for covers; adding adjectives will narrow the search as one wishes (i.e., airmail covers, author covers, publisher covers, or more specific, Loring covers or Coates covers).

During a recent search for covers pertaining to publisher Grosset & Dunlap, publishers of many series books, I located the cover pictured on this page. This first-day cover was issued January 20, 1960, from Mount Vernon, Virginia. The stamp is one of series of

six, called the "American Credo" issue, commemorating quotations from famous Americans, this one by George Washington.

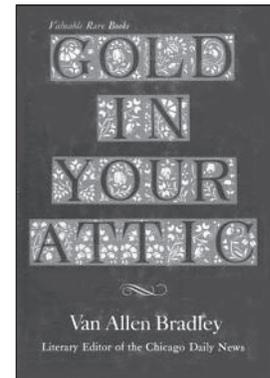
For some reason as yet unknown, G&D decided to print a special envelope for this stamp, one which promotes the publisher's business. This printed message is known as a cachet. Early cachets were rubber stamps, but after World War II most were printed directly to the envelope.

The recipient is also interesting, as Van Allen Bradley was a Chicago book dealer and newspaper columnist who wrote about rare books in his column "Gold in Your Attic," later issued as a book under the same title. He worked at the **Chicago Daily News** for 23 years, until his retirement in 1971. He also maintained a used bookstore in Chicago, the Heritage Book Shop (not to be confused with one of the same name in Los Angeles).

This type of cover is a good example of a piece of literary ephemera, which is an item connected to the world of books. Most are inexpensive, but high-priced pieces can be found. A collection can be focused in any number of ways, depending only on the whim and budget of the collector. Occasionally, one can get lucky and find a piece with the contents intact; I have a number with publisher's receipts for books purchased still enclosed.

Not only can this pursuit provide fun and relaxation, but one can gain a sense of history whenever entering the world of stamps.

Sincerely,  
Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)  
P.O. Box 6386  
Omaha, NE 68106



Dear Bill:

Hope all is going well and that you are enjoying the summer.

I'm writing to thank you for publishing the photo of Randy Cox and me along with the commentary about his retirement as editor of **Dime Novel Round-Up** in your July-August issue. Randy truly deserves kudos for his contributions to our field.

Sincerely,  
Marlena E. Bremseth (PF-1123)  
Editor, **Dime Novel Round-Up**  
P.O. Box 2188  
Purcellville, VA 20134  
DimeNovelRoundup@aol.com

## How Johnny Bought a Sewing-Machine

Just across the street from the Methodist Church, in the principal street of Benton, is a small one-story house, consisting of three rooms only. This is occupied by Mrs. Cooper, a widow, and her only son Johnny, with whom it is our purpose to become further acquainted. When the great Rebellion broke out, Johnny's father was one of the first to enlist. It was a great trial to him to leave behind his wife and son, but he felt it his duty to go. For more than a year he wrote cheerful letters home; but one dark day there came over the wires tidings of the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg, and in the list of killed was the name of James Cooper.

It was a sad day for Mrs. Cooper; but she had little time to mourn. The death of her husband threw the burden of maintaining herself and Johnny upon her shoulders. After a while she obtained a pension of eight dollars a month, which helped her considerably. One half of it paid her rent, and the other half paid for her fuel and lights. But it costs a good deal to buy food and clothes for two persons, and she was obliged to toil early and late with her needle to make up the requisite sum. Johnny was now eleven years old, and might have obtained a chance to peg shoes in some of the shoe-shops in the village, as indeed he wanted to do; but Mrs. Cooper felt that he ought to be kept at school. As she would not be able to leave him money, she was resolved at least to give him as good an education as the village schools would allow.

One evening, just after tea, Mrs. Cooper laid down her work, with a little sigh. "Johnny," said she, "I will get you to run over to Squire Baker's, and say that I shall not be able to finish his shirts to-night, but I will try to send them over in the morning before he goes."

"You don't feel well, mother, do you?"

"No, I have a bad headache. I think I shall go to bed early, and see if I can't sleep it off."

"I don't believe it agrees with you to sew so much," said Johnny.

"I sometimes wish I had a sewing-machine," said his mother. "That would enable me to do three times as much work with less fatigue."

"How much does a sewing-machine cost?"

"I suppose a good one would cost not far from a hundred dollars."

"A hundred dollars! That's a good deal of money," said Johnny.

"Yes, quite too much for our means. Of course there is no



chance of my being able to purchase one."

As Johnny went across the field to Squire Baker's, he could not help thinking of what his mother had said. He had hoped the cost of a machine would not exceed twenty dollars, for in that case there might be some chance of his earning the amount in time. Occasionally the neighbors called upon him to do odd jobs, and paid him small sums. These in time might amount to twenty dollars. But a hundred seemed quite too large for him to think of accumulating.

"Still," thought Johnny, "I've a good mind to try. I won't wait for jobs to come to me; I'll look out for them. I have a good deal of time out of school when I might be doing something. If I don't get enough to buy a sewing-machine, I may get something else that mother will like."

The next day was Saturday, and school did not keep. It was about the first of October. In the town where Johnny lived there were many swamps planted with cranberries, which were now ripe and ready for gathering. It was necessary to pick them before a frost, since this fruit, if touched with the frost, will decay rapidly. As Johnny was coming home from the store, he met a school companion, who seemed to be in a hurry.

"Where are you going, Frank?" he inquired.

"I'm going to pick cranberries for Squire Baker."

"How much does he pay?"

"Two cents a quart."

"Do you think he would hire me?" asked Johnny, with a sudden thought.

"Yes, and be glad to get you. He's got a good many cranberries on the vines, and he's afraid there will be a frost to-night."

"Then I'll go and ask mother if I can go. Just hold on a minute."

"All right."

Having obtained permission, Johnny rejoined his companion, and proceeded at once to the swamp. The fruit was abundant; for the crop this year was unusually good, and Johnny found that he could pick quite rapidly. When noon came, he found that he had picked twenty quarts.

"Can you come again this afternoon?" asked the Squire.

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*This famous Alger story made its debut in the August 1866 issue of Our Young Folks. An Illustrated Magazine for Boys and Girls, published by Ticknor & Fields of Boston. It has been reprinted in several publications over the years, but this is only its second appearance in Newsboy, the first occurring in May and June 1965.*

“Yes, sir,” said Johnny, promptly.

“I shall be very glad to have you, for hands are scarce.”

Johnny had already earned forty cents, and hoped to earn as much more in the afternoon. He was so excited by his success that he hurried through his dinner with great rapidity, and was off once more to the swamp. He worked till late, and found at the end of the day that he had gathered fifty quarts. He felt very rich when the Squire handed him a one-dollar greenback in return for his services. He felt pretty tired in consequence of stooping so much, but the thought that he had earned a whole dollar in one day fully repaid him.

“Mother,” said Johnny when he got home, “if you are willing, I will keep this money. There is something very particular I want it for.”

“Certainly,” said his mother. “You shall keep this, and all you earn. I am very sure you will not wish to spend it unwisely.”

“No, mother, you may be sure of that.”

On Monday it so happened that the teacher was sick, and school was suspended. Johnny found no difficulty in obtaining a chance to pick cranberries for another neighbor. He was determined to do a little better than on Saturday. When evening came, he was paid for fifty-three quarts — one dollar and six cents.

“I wish there were cranberries to be picked all the year round,” thought Johnny. “I should soon get a hundred dollars.”

But this was about the last of his picking. School kept the next day, and though he got a little time after school, he could only pick a few quarts. When the cranberry season was over, Johnny found himself the possessor of four dollars. After that his gains were small. Occasionally he ran on an errand for a neighbor. Once he turned the grindstone for about half an hour, and received the small compensation of one cent from a rather parsimonious farmer. Johnny was about to throw it away, when the thought came to him, that, small as it was, it would help a little.

So the autumn slipped away, and winter came and went. In the spring Johnny found more to do. On the first day of June he counted his money, and found he had fifteen dollars.

“It’ll take a long time to get a hundred dollars,” sighed Johnny. “If mother would only let me go to work in a shoe-shop! But, she thinks I had better go to school. But by and by there’ll be a chance to pick cranberries again. I wish there’d be a vacation then.”

One morning Johnny had occasion to cross the fields near a small pond about half a mile from his mother’s house. He was busily thinking about his little fund, and what he could do to increase it, when his attention was all at once attracted by a sharp cry of distress. Looking up, he saw a gentleman in a row-boat on the pond, who appeared to be in the greatest trouble.

“Boy,” he called out. “Can you swim?”

“Yes, sir,” said Johnny.

“Then save my little daughter, if you can. She has just fallen out of the boat. There she is.”

The little girl just appeared above the surface of the water.

Luckily it was very near the shore, yet too deep for anyone to venture who was unable to swim. Our young hero had plenty of courage. Moreover, he was an expert swimmer, having been taught by his father before he went to the war. Without a minute’s hesitation he stripped off his jacket and plunged in. A few vigorous strokes brought him to the little girl. He seized her, just as she was about sinking for the third time. He held her till her father could receive her from his arms into the boat.

“Let me lift you in, too,” he said.

“No, sir; I’ll swim to shore,” said Johnny.

“Come up to the hotel this afternoon. I want to see you.”

The father applied himself to the restoration of his daughter, and Johnny went home and changed his wet clothes. He had recognized the gentleman as a merchant from the city who had been boarding at the hotel for a week or two. He felt a glow of satisfaction in the thought that he had been instrumental in saving a human life; for it was very evident that, her father being unable to swim, the little girl would but for him have been drowned.

In the afternoon he went to the hotel, and inquired for Mr. Barclay, for he had heard the gentleman’s name. He was conducted up stairs into a private parlor.

Mr. Barclay advanced towards him with a smile of welcome. “I am glad to see you, my brave boy,” he said.

“Is your little girl quite recovered?” asked Johnny, modestly.

“Yes, nearly so. I thought it best to let her lie in bed the remainder of the day, as she might have got chilled. And now, my dear boy, how shall I express my gratitude to you for your noble conduct? Under God, you have been the means of saving my dear child’s life. I am quite unable to swim, and I shudder to think what would have happened but for your timely presence and courage.”

“I am very glad I was able to be of service,” said Johnny.

“I cannot allow such a service to go unrewarded,” said Mr. Barclay. “Adequate compensation I cannot offer, for money will not pay for the saving of life; but you will allow me to give you this as a first instalment of my gratitude.” He pressed into the hands of the astonished boy a one-hundred-dollar bill.

“One hundred dollars!” exclaimed Johnny in bewilderment. “Do you really mean to give me so much?”

“It is little enough, I am sure.”

“O, I am so glad!” said Johnny, delighted. “Now I can buy mother a sewing-machine.”

“But don’t you want to buy something for yourself?” asked Mr. Barclay, with interest.

“No, sir; I would rather have a sewing-machine than anything.”

Then Johnny, encouraged by Mr. Barclay’s evident interest, proceeded to tell him how for nearly a year he had been saving up money, without his mother’s knowledge, to buy her a machine, in order that she need not work so hard in future. But thus far he had only succeeded in saving up fifteen dollars. Now, thanks to this unexpected gift, he would be able to buy it

*(Continued on Page 16)*

## How Johnny Bought a Sewing-Machine

(Continued from Page 15)

at once. "And it'll come just right, too," he said, with sparkling eyes, "for it will be mother's birthday in a week from to-day, and I can give it to her then. Only," he said doubtfully, "I don't know whom I can get to buy it."

"I can help you there," said Mr. Barclay. "I am going to the city in a day or two. I will select the machine, and arrange to have it sent down by express on your mother's birthday."

"That'll be just the thing," said Johnny. "Won't she be astonished? I sha'n't say anything to her about it beforehand. Here's the money, sir; I thank you very much for that, and for your kind offer."

"I ought to be kind to you, my dear boy, when I think how much you have done for me."

"Good afternoon, sir."

"Good afternoon. Call again tomorrow, and you shall see the little girl you have saved."

Johnny did call the next day, and made acquaintance with little Annie Barclay, whom he found a sprightly little girl of four years of age. She took quite a fancy to our young hero, with whom she had a fine game of romps.

Mrs. Cooper knew that Johnny had saved a little girl from drowning, but never inquired what reward he had received, feeling sure that he would tell her sometime. As for Johnny, he had his reasons for keeping silent, as we know.

At length Mrs. Cooper's birthday came. Johnny was full of impatience for evening, for then the express-wagon would arrive from Boston with the present for his mother. As soon as he heard the rumble of the wheels, he ran to the door. To his delight, the wagon stopped at the gate.

"Come here, youngster, and give us a lift," called the express-man. "I've got something heavy for you."

It was a large article, looking something like a table; but what it was Mrs. Cooper could not tell, on account of its many wrappings. "There must be some mistake," she said, going to the door. "I am not expecting anything." "No, there isn't," said Johnny; "it's all right, directed in large letters to Mrs. Mary Cooper, Benton."

"I shall want fifty cents," said the express-man.

"I've got it here," said Johnny, seeing that his mother was searching for her pocket-book.

"O, by the way, here's something else — a letter directed to you. That will be fifteen cents more."

"Indeed!" said Johnny, surprised. "Well, here's the money." He took the letter, but did not open it at once. He wanted to enjoy his mother's surprise.

Mrs. Cooper was unwrapping the machine. "What is this?" she exclaimed, in delighted surprise. A sewing-machine!

"Yes, mother. It's a birthday present for you from me."

"My dear boy! How could you ever have earned money enough to pay for it?"

Then Johnny told his mother all about it. And her eyes glistened with pride and joy as she heard, for the first time, how he had worked for months with this end in view, and she could not help giving him a grateful kiss, which I am sure paid Johnny for all he had done. It was really a beautiful machine, and, though Johnny did not know it, cost considerably more than the hundred dollars he had sent. Mrs. Cooper found that it worked admirably, and would lighten her labors more even than she had hoped.

"But you haven't opened your letter," she said with a sudden recollection. "So I haven't," said Johnny.

What was his surprise on opening it to discover the same hundred-dollar bill which Mr. Barclay had originally given him, accompanied by the following note.

"My dear young friend: — I have bought your mother a sewing-machine, which I send by express to-day. I hope it will please you both, and prove very useful. I also send

you a hundred dollars, which I wish you to use for yourself. The sewing-machine will be none the less your present to your mother, since both that and the money are a very insufficient recompense for the service you have rendered me. Continue to love and help your mother, and when you are old enough to go into a store I will receive you into mine.

"Your friend,

"HENRY BARCLAY."

There was great joy in the little cottage that evening. Johnny felt as rich as a millionaire, and could not take his eyes from the corner where the handsome new sewing-machine had been placed. And his mother, happy as she was in her present, was happier in the thought that it had come to her through the good conduct of her son.

*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

