



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

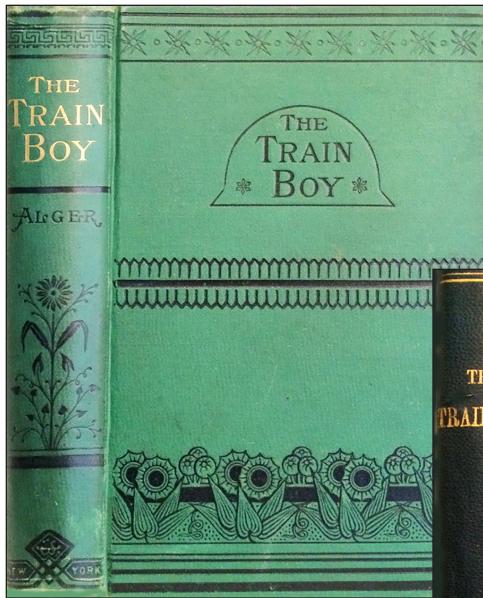
1832 - 1899

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

VOLUME LIV

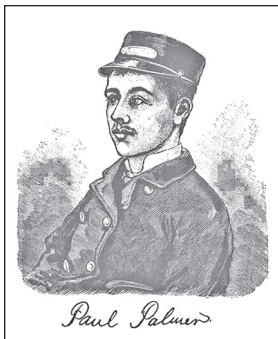
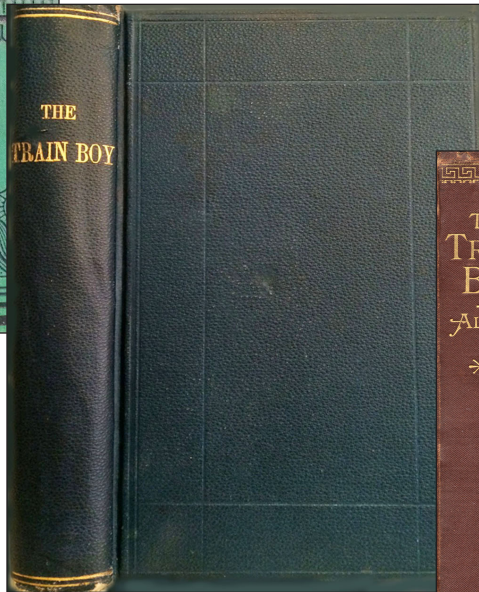
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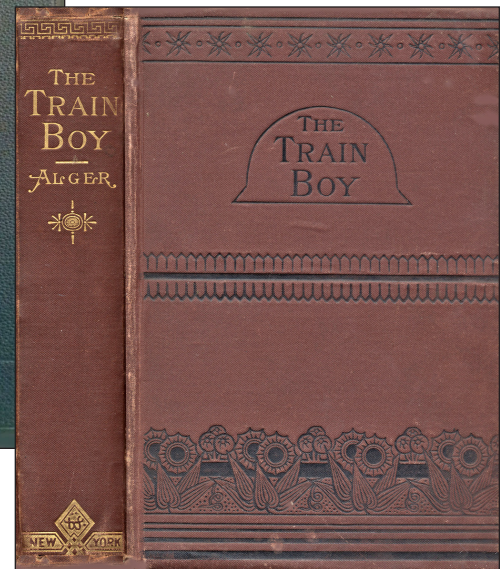


Early printings of Alger's *The Train Boy*

-- See Page 3



Paul Palmer



A HOOSIER WELCOME TO THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY!

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President's column

In his excellent life of George Orwell, biographer D. J. Taylor notes that besides his published works, Orwell left precious few artifacts. Taylor comes into possession of Orwell's stapler, and cherishes this rather prosaic memento (Taylor, "Orwell's Things," *Orwell: The Life* [New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2003], 399).

Various categories take us beyond books by the authors we collect, and each one represents a commendable increase in our zeal (or a heightening of our mania). Some of us draw the line at the books themselves, in the English language. Others collect the books even in languages they do not know and have no desire to learn. Others add magazines featuring stories or poems by the author. Others are proud to obtain manuscripts in the author's hand or bearing his or her signature, such as letters or photographs.

My own collection includes a few items that show that I have sometimes started down this slippery path of association items. I own a book in Polish by Ralph Henry Barbour and books in French, German, and Norwegian by Stephen W. Meader. I do not read Marguerite Henry, but I cherish the copy of *Cedar's Boy* that Meader inscribed to her. My other treasures include letters by Meader and Barbour, a signed photo by Meader, a typed card with autobiographical data signed by Gilbert Patten, and two letters and a manuscript of the last page of a book by Arthur Stanwood Pier.

This sort of material is straightforward enough, but the search for items that bring us closer to our favorite writers can take us in strange directions. Orwell's stapler may seem odd, but I would guess that if Horatio Alger's top hat or Edward Stratemeyer's walking stick or Gilbert Patten's typewriter suddenly came on the market, they would attract spirited bidding.

The one purchase that truly pushes me to the fringe of the collecting urge is a framed certificate from the Massachusetts Emergency and Hygiene Association. Dated Boston, 25 February 1905, it attests that Elise Riché Hall has completed a twelve-week course at the Vincent Memorial Hospital and is now "qualified to serve as an Attendant in the care of convalescent, feeble or elderly persons and in subacute and chronic cases of illness."

Interesting as the document is as a piece of printed ephemera, what could possibly connect it to my boys'

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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 books, pulps and dime novels.

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Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of **Newsboy** \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176**.

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

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.

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 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

Early printings of Alger's *The Train Boy*

By Keith Thompson (PF-035)

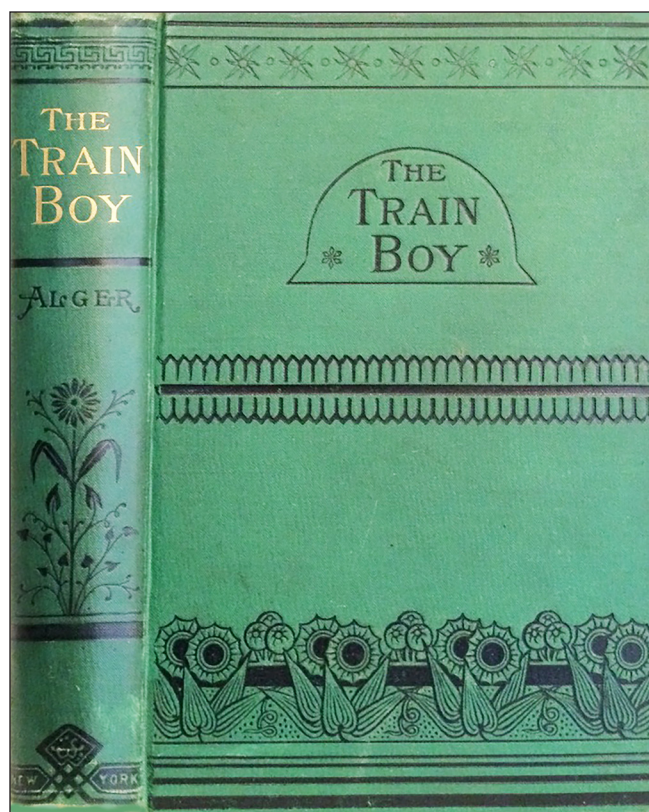
The final installment of "The Train Boy" by Horatio Alger, Jr. appeared in the February 19, 1883 issue of Street & Smith's *New York Weekly*. In the same year, the Carleton publishing firm abandoned its retail trade and premises at 192 Fifth Avenue in New York City and moved to West 23rd Street, where a hardcover edition of *The Train Boy* was published.¹ The title page carries the names "G.W. Carleton & Co., Publishers." and "Street & Smith, New York Weekly" on two lines and is dated 1883 in Roman numerals.

For this article, two copies of this edition with variant bindings, each differing from the other and both from the regular first edition, were examined to determine, if possible, an order of printing precedence.

The Carleton publishing firm had begun as Rudd and Carleton (1857-1861) on Broadway near Duane Street. Upon the death in 1861 of Edward P. Rudd and the retirement of his father, George R. Rudd, it became G.W. Carleton (1861-1871) at 413 Broadway. In 1871, with the co-partnership of George W. Dillingham, chief clerk of the firm since 1864, the house was renamed G.W. Carleton & Company.

George Carleton retired in 1886, and the firm was incorporated as the G.W. Dillingham Company. George Dillingham died in 1895, and the firm was reincorporated

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The G.W. Carleton 1883 first edition of Alger's *The Train Boy*. Several cloth colors have been observed.

A Hoosier welcome to the H.A.S.!

By Bob Sipes (PF-1067)

The 2016 H.A.S. annual convention, "Back Home Again in Indiana," is almost here and Wendy and I are looking forward to seeing everyone and having a great time. We have received quite a few registrations and are hoping for many more. A few regular attendees and many other H.A.S. member registrations are lacking and we hope to hear from you soon. We are all part of a large group of series book collectors and it is fun to meet old and new friends and swap stories and information about our collections, recent acquisitions and related research.

Of course, one of the primary reasons to attend is to add to our individual collections. We will be auctioning off the remainder of the Bill Thieme collection, a couple

of smaller collections, and many other items. There are always unexpected items brought by attendees that surprise and excite bidders. We will also have the book sale on Saturday morning where there are always items for everyone.

The Saturday evening banquet, which will feature our annual **Strive and Succeed Award** presentation to an area high school student, will be at The Seasons Lodge Dining Room in Nashville, Indiana, a short drive from the Columbus area. The Seasons Lodge overlooks the hills of Brown County and provides an elegant, yet rustic ambience where the beauty of the southern Indiana outdoors is tempered by the sound of a piano and the mouthwatering aroma wafting in from the kitchen.

Feel free to head down to Nashville early Saturday

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Editor's notebook

Convention time is just weeks away, and I hope many of you “on the fence” will send in your registration form today! Several of our regular attendees have been absent in recent years, and I hope you reconsider and decide to join us in the Columbus, Indiana, area. Remember, the Horatio Alger Society was built on friendships gained over many decades, and when a beloved, longtime member such as John Juvinall (PF-537) passes away (see article at right), it sends a message that absence does not “make the heart grow fonder” — but sadder.

These friendships are important to all of us; it's not always “about the books” in this era of the Internet. If you don't find that desired first edition at the convention, so what? Maybe you'll meet someone who will find a copy for you down the line. So, please join us on April 28. You will be happy you did!

Columbus, Indiana's architecture

On Page 14, I have reproduced photos of several of the dozens of architectural landmarks in the central Indiana city of Columbus, really a fantastic American place to visit. Many of the world's great architects are represented, including the father-son team of Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Harry Weese, Eliot Noyes, I.M. Pei and Kevin Roche, among others. As of this date, seven of Columbus' unique buildings and surrounding groundscapes have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We will be having our Friday dinner at the Sirloin Stockade in Columbus, and our free time on Saturday afternoon will also allow you to see some of these amazing buildings for yourself. For more information, just go to www.columbus.in.us/columbus/art-architecture/architecture

Convention host Bob Sipes' article in this issue notes that he has finalized plans for the annual H.A.S. banquet on April 30, to be held at The Seasons Lodge in the nearby historic town of Nashville in Brown County, one of Indiana's favorite scenic destinations. For more about The Seasons Lodge Dining Room, visit www.seasonsloodge.com/content/seasons-lodge-dining-room. Also, a reminder that our annual **Strive and Succeed Award** will be presented to an area high school senior during the banquet.

Our banquet keynote speaker will be renowned Indiana author James Alexander Thom, who has written

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John Juvinall, with his daughter, Juanita Durkin, at the 2008 convention in Carson City, Nevada. It was Juvinall's 31st consecutive convention since joining the H.A.S. in 1978, a record which still stands.

Longtime H.A.S. member John Juvinall dies at age 95

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

John R. Juvinall (PF-537), of Hinsdale, Illinois, who joined the Horatio Alger Society in 1978 and did not miss a convention until 2009 — following a string of 31 years — died on March 5, three months shy of his 96th birthday.

Born on June 13, 1920, he grew up in Chicago and after earning an accounting degree, he served with distinction in World War II with the U.S. Army during the Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands campaign in the South Pacific as a radio communications specialist.

Juvinall's daughter, Juanita Durkin, also an H.A.S. member, adds details of her father's amazingly fulfilled life in a **Letter to the Editor** on Page 6. In addition to his membership in the Horatio Alger Society, after returning to civilian life following the war, he traveled throughout the world, and continued his interest in radio by earning an amateur radio (HAM) license, communicating with friends throughout the world until just a few weeks prior to his death. He also was an avid photographer.

A quiet, friendly presence at our conventions, following the death in the 1980s of H.A.S. co-founder Kenneth Butler of downstate Mendota, Illinois, John took on the responsibilities as H.A.S. official registered agent with the Illinois Secretary of State. Because the Society was incorporated as a non-profit within Illinois in 1965, a renewal to retain that status must be filed annually by

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Constitution change to be discussed at annual board meeting

At last year's board meeting, we discussed a potential reduction in the number of directors. To refresh everyone's memory, this was reported in the May-June 2015 *Newsboy* as follows:

"There was much discussion prior to the board meeting and during the meeting regarding the current number of directors. The prevailing opinion is that we need to reduce the number of directors from nine to six. However, this requires a change to the By-Laws [actually the Constitution] (Article VI, Section I) for reducing the number of directors.

"The Board approved a motion to change the [Constitution] during the next fiscal year and request approval at the next board meeting during the 2016 Convention. The board and nominating committee over the next two years will work to move the board to a membership of six, rotating two (instead of three directors) on a three-year cycle."

The following change to the constitution by Robert Eastlack (PF-557) is now under consideration and will

be discussed at our 2016 convention in Columbus, Indiana:

Article VI, Section 1-D: change Directors (9) to Directors (6).

Article VII, Section 4: The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and nine (9) Directors, each of whom has one vote. [Change nine (9) to six (6)] The immediate Past President shall be a non-voting member of the Board for one year. Each of the Nine (9) Directors, shall serve three (3)-year terms, to be staggered in three year groupings. [Change Nine (9) Directors to Six (6)].

Members who wish to express their views on this matter and who will be unable to attend the convention are urged to contact me or any of the other officers.

Jeff Looney (PF-903)
President, Horatio Alger Society
Email: jlooney@monticello.org

A Hoosier welcome to the H.A.S.!

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afternoon prior to the evening banquet. The flea markets, antique stores, and local artisan stores will provide for an interesting and fun-filled day.

Our keynote speaker Saturday evening will be James Alexander Thom. Mr. Thom is a best-selling Indiana author of well-researched, highly accurate historical novels including *Follow the River* (based on the Draper's Meadow massacre and also made into a film), *Long Knife* (George Rogers Clark), *From Sea to Shining Sea* (The Clark family including George Rogers Clark and William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition), *The Children of First Man* (Mandan Indian tribe), *Panther in the Sky* (Tecumseh), and many others.

Mr. Thom has long been one of my favorite authors of historical fiction since I started reading his books as a young teenager. He tells delightful stories with wit and humor and is sure to close out the banquet in a fantastic manner with his speech titled "A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to the Bestseller List."



**Banquet keynote speaker
James Alexander Thom**

Hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible to the Holiday Inn Express in Taylorsville. (*Please note the address for the hotel states Edinburgh*). The hotel phone number is (812) 526-4919. Please tell the hotel that you are with the Horatio Alger Society to ensure that you receive the special convention rate of \$99. This rate includes free wireless, newspaper, and an excellent Continental breakfast and will apply for your entire stay including preceding and following dates.

The official convention registration form is enclosed, along with an updated schedule of events.

As a brief note of interest for those of you who read pulp literature, you may recall that Mack Bolan, *The Executioner*, visited Nashville, Indiana, in book #33, *Monday's Mob*. This was the beginning of his final week warring against the Mafia before he began working for the U.S. government.

We will post convention information and updates to the H.A.S. website and our Facebook page. Wendy and I are looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2016 H.A.S. "Back Home Again in Indiana" Convention!

See Page 14 for photos of Columbus, Indiana's award-winning modern and classic architecture.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 16, 2016

Hi Bill:

Sorry for not getting this to you as early as I'd planned, but here are a few things about Dad that you might find useful:

John R. Juvinal was born in Illinois and lived in Chicago growing up. Prior to WWII, he attended Wilson Junior Business College in Chicago and majored in Accounting. When war came in 1941, he joined the Army and was in the

164th Infantry of the Americal Division at Guadalcanal and Bougainville and the Northern Solomon campaigns in 1942-43. He was honorably discharged in 1945. He married my mother, Ruth, in June of 1944, shortly after he returned from the South Pacific theater. They lived at Fort Benning in Georgia until his discharge, and then moved to Chicago. In 1948, they moved into the house in Hinsdale, where he lived until his death.



John Juvinal while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Once back in Chicago, Dad quickly found work at the Hawthorne Works factory of Western Electric, and he worked there from 1945 until 1975, finishing out his time there in the Quality Assurance department. He never missed a single day of work in the 30 years he worked at Western Electric, and he received an award for that accomplishment. He took an early retirement in 1975, when much of the work for Hawthorne was being moved to the Aurora plant. We had no fears that he wouldn't remain busy, because he had so many interests and hobbies.

In addition to the Horatio Alger Society, Dad had a life-long love of all things electronic. In addition to the latest stereo equipment, TVs, recording equipment, and radio equipment, he was the first person I knew to have a personal computer, an Apple II-GS. On that Apple, he played computer games with my brother and I and his grandchildren. I still love (and collect)

computer games to this day, largely because of Dad.

He had a special love for radio. He was radio and telegraph operator for his regiment in WWII and sent and received messages from his regimental HQ to division and battalion HQ. In civilian life, he acquired his HAM radio and telegraph license and communicated with other HAM operators all over the world. He made many friends through HAM radio, and when we traveled around the world, we often stayed with his HAM friends and gained a unique perspective of the countries we visited. Dad was still an active HAM operator and talked on the radio daily right up until a few weeks before he passed.

Hawthorne had about 45,000 employees at its height, so many of the employees formed various special interest social clubs. Though fairly shy by nature, Dad found he shared a number of common interests with his co-workers and he participated in a number of these clubs, as well as the Telephone Pioneers of America (www.telecompioneers.org/centennial/history/default.aspx).

Dad was very active in the Travel Club and traveled all over Europe, South America, and other parts of the world with them. He didn't care for public speaking, yet he often presented travelogues from his other trips for the Travel Club members, which were always well attended. Dad traveled to many countries on every continent except Antarctica.

He was also very interested in photography and enjoyed developing and enlarging his own photos, in his early days with that hobby. Once he began to travel often, he gave up developing the photos and just concentrated on taking great photos of his adventures in the rest of the world. He really enjoyed Hawthorne's Photography Club and won a number of ribbons for photos he'd taken. He won trophies playing table tennis in work competitions, too. (He used to play me and let me get 19 points. Then, he'd make 21 straight points and win every time!).

Sincerely,
 Juanita Durkin (PF-1096)
 7642 A. 88th Ct.
 Justice, IL 60458

March 1, 2016

Dear Bill:

I wanted to thank you for sending me the January-February **Newsboy** and for doing such a nice job on the death notice for G.W. I miss him so! He was loved and enjoyed by many and loved people and keeping up with them. While he just was not interested in personally using the World Wide Web, he was forever remembering someone that he wanted to find, and when I could

locate them or even their descendants, it gave him a lot of happiness (and me for making him happy)! Many of those I found were astounded at his remembering them! We actually visited with about 10 that I located, and many he talked with and corresponded by letter. He was truly old school!

Rob Kasper has caught me up on the Horatio Alger Society, and am sorry to learn membership is declining. It is one of the few things that in this day and age stands for something, and it is sad to know the younger people are just not interested. While I am not "political," I do think the H.A.S. has the same standards our country as a whole once did, and with our current turmoil we need all that we can to make the young people understand.

I hope the convention in Indiana will be a good one.

Sincerely,
Alice Owens
23 Kiowa Lane
Palmyra, VA 22963

March 14, 2016

Dear Bill:

I wanted to give a report of my conference in Tempe, Arizona. I had never been there, first of all, and I was rather taken with the scenery, especially the cacti. Someone told me that it takes 75 years to grow those "huge arms" on a cactus. One night we had dinner at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, a stunning place that is a "must-see" if you are in that area.

I really enjoyed that dinner, as the person next to

me had written one of my favorite books, a history of baseball's Federal League, back in the early days of the Cubs and other teams. On the other side of me was a guy in charge of the biography project of the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR), who urged me to write a piece on Violet. I told him that the editor of the SABR journal had already told me she wanted an article, and he said that when it's out, he can put it online. He will also put online the article I had written on baseball pioneer Bill Veeck, Sr.

My talk went over very well. A lot of laughs and a lot of nice comments. A woman from New York University told me at a reception that she thinks she has "true confession" magazines featuring Violet as a model, and she would look into it. A lot of people said that they had never heard about this incident. Two of them said "you have to do a book on Violet."

My book editor was there, and we talked quite a bit.

Admittedly, I was a bit nervous about it all. I'm rather new to this, and I'm certainly no statistician or walking encyclopedia. But it turned out just fine. Major League Baseball's historian was at the banquet, and we had emailed a bit before, and we talked for a little while.

I went to three baseball games, including one at the Cubs' new spring training park. Oh, and the weather was just glorious every day. Attached is a photograph of the hotel and a photo taken at the botanical garden. Also a photo of the Cubs' marquee.

Sincerely,
Jack Bales (PF-258)
422 Greenbrier Ct.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

John Juvinal dies at age 95

(Continued from Page 4)

a registered agent for the organization, and John did so for more than three decades.

Not a big collector of Horatio Alger books, at the annual auction he still would make a handful of purchases to help the Society's treasury. One of his endearing traditions was to pay in cash rather than by check following the auction — not with folding currency, but with half-dollars or Susan B. Anthony dollar coins.

Each year, he also donated to the auction recorded music and old-time classic comedy and drama radio programs, initially on tape cassettes and later on compact discs, which he created on his computer. When the Horatio Alger 20-cent commemorative stamp was issued in 1982, he bought dozens of sheets of 50, and each year he would donate several sheets to the auction.

At the 2007 convention in Shelbyville, Indiana, H.A.S. president Mike Morley presented John a dinner gift certificate in honor of his 30th straight convention. In 2008, he and Juanita traveled, along with this writer, by Southwest Airlines to Carson City, Nevada, his 31st straight convention. John missed the 2009 convention in Charlottesville, Virginia, which his daughter said "disappointed him greatly," but he was able to make the 2011 convention in North Canton, Ohio, along with 2012 at DeKalb, Illinois, and 2013 in Greenwood, Indiana, bringing his final count to 34 conventions.

Graveside services were held March 9 at Bronswood Cemetery in Oak Brook, Illinois. Juanita has suggested that Partic'lar Friends can donate a remembrance gift to the Horatio Alger Society, or to the Tree House Humane Society, 1212 West Carmen Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640. **Note:** donations to H.A.S. can be mailed to 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176, or via PayPal by visiting www.horatioalgersociety.net.

Alger's *The Train Boy*

(Continued from Page 3)

in 1906 with new ownership, but financial difficulties led to bankruptcy in 1916.²

Three Alger titles were published by Carleton: *The Western Boy* (1878), *The Train Boy* (1883), and *Dan the Detective* (1884). Ralph Gardner suggests that Street & Smith was a financial participant.³ All three titles were copyrighted by Street & Smith, and the stories had previously appeared in serialization form in *New York Weekly*: "The Western Boy" in 1873, "Dan the Detective" (1880), and "The Train Boy" (1883).

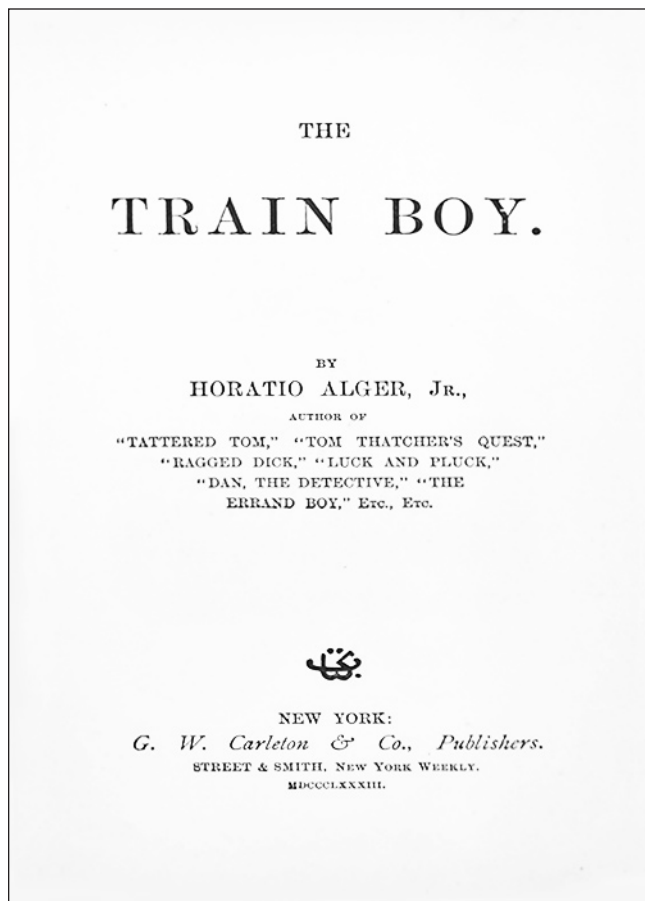
My first acquaintance with Carleton & Co. was in 1956 on a visit to New York City. I was a graduate student at Cornell and had taken the Phoebe Snow, the Lackawanna Railroad's flagship passenger train, from Owego on New York State's Southern Tier to the Hoboken, New Jersey, terminus and then the Barclay Street Ferry to lower Manhattan. A *New York Times* article of 1865 describes:⁴

... the crossing from the Hoboken Ferry to Barclay-street ... an undertaking of frequent terror to hundreds of passengers ... the sidewalks at and beyond the south corner of Barclay and West streets are choked up by a crowd of loafers, salesmen, barrels, baskets, boxes, &c. ... the thousands who, night and morning, have to storm these crossings, and crowd at a snail's pace through the sidewalk labyrinth in Barclay-street, between West and Washington streets, would hail the presence of more police force with great delight.

Alger describes a similar scene in *Ben, the Luggage Boy*. Ben is speaking to a "freckled-faced boy, whose box strapped to his back identified him at once as a street boot-black:"⁵

"It's most time for the train to be in from Philadelphia. I'm layin' round for a job." ... the conversation recorded above took place at the foot of Cortlandt Street, opposite the ferry wharf. It was nearly time for the train, and there was the usual scene of confusion. Express wagons, hacks, boys, laborers, were gathering, presenting a confusing medley to the eye of one unaccustomed to the spectacle.

My eye was one of those "unaccustomed to the spectacle," and the view of the ferry terminal upon arriving at the Barclay Street dock evoked for me the essence of 19th century New York. Always frugal, I made my way to the YMCA on West 34th Street and subsisted for three days entirely at Horn and Hardart



Title page of the G.W. Carleton first edition, with year of publication (1883) in Roman numerals, placed below "New York: G.W. Carleton & Co. Publishers and Street & Smith, New York Weekly" on three lines.

Automats and Nesbitt's on sandwiches, hot dogs and orange soda. Perhaps unconsciously, I sought restaurants similar to the one on Fulton Street where Ben Brandon (the title hero of *Ben, the Luggage Boy*) orders roast beef, two potatoes and a "small piece of bread on the side of the plate" for 15 cents as his first meal in New York City. Alger further describes the plates as "dingy, and the meat neither very abundant nor very tender."

Competing with Ralph Gardner in New York for Horatio Alger books was not a particularly profitable exercise, but I always spent the best part of a day each visit on the Fourth Avenue Book Row. I rarely found a new title, but usually ended the day with a box of Hursts and Burts to upgrade my nearly unreadable Donohue and New York Book Co. editions.

One evening, I attended a performance of "The Three Penny Opera" at a theater in the Village and en route chanced upon a bookshop where I purchased a copy of *The Train Boy* for three dollars. The book was

shelved in the “Juvenile” section, but only the title on the spine betrayed any Alger association. The binding has no markings that would identify the publisher or author. At this point in my collecting career I had not seen Frank Gruber’s Alger checklist in **The Antiquarian Bookman** (1948), but the Carleton imprint, hitherto unknown to me, and title page dated the same year as the copyright notice (1883) justified the extravagant purchase.

I brought the book with me to the “Booked in Boston” Convention in 1977. Bob Bennett dismissed it as a “rebind,” and indeed this is a possibility, but a close examination makes it seem more likely that, although very plain, the book retains its original binding. The next public appearance was at “Fame and Fortune in Columbus” in 2015, where Rob Kasper encouraged me to examine the text for type wear and compare it to known copies of the first edition. Toward this end, I acquired a copy of the first edition from a Pennsylvania bookseller. Rob further suggested that no study would be complete without a careful examination of the Jerry Friedland copy in the Horatio Alger, Jr. collection at Northern Illinois University.

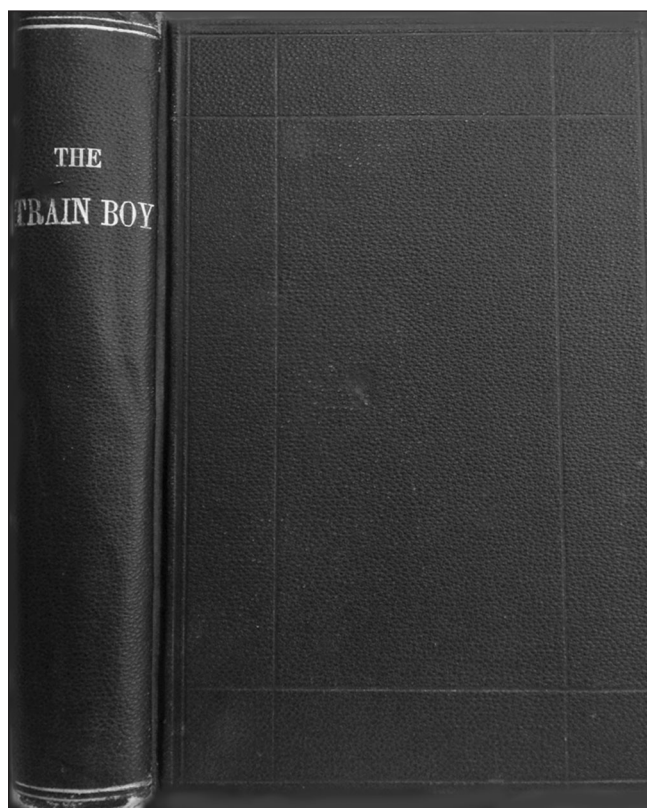
Thus armed with materials and incentive, I drove to DeKalb in late July and spent two days examining the NIU copy with the help of Lynne Thomas and Angie Schroeder in the Rare Books and Special Collections department. I had not attended any of the three conventions previously held at NIU, and it was no hardship to sit and work in air-conditioned comfort surrounded by shelves of Alger and Stratemeyer.

I have now examined in detail the three principal binding variants that are known to me: For the purpose of this article, I will refer to them as Greenwich Village (GV), Jerry Friedland (JF), and Keith Thompson (KT). In addition, Rob Kasper provided a detailed examination of his copy of the first edition (RK) and his copy of the 1886 Dillingham reprint.

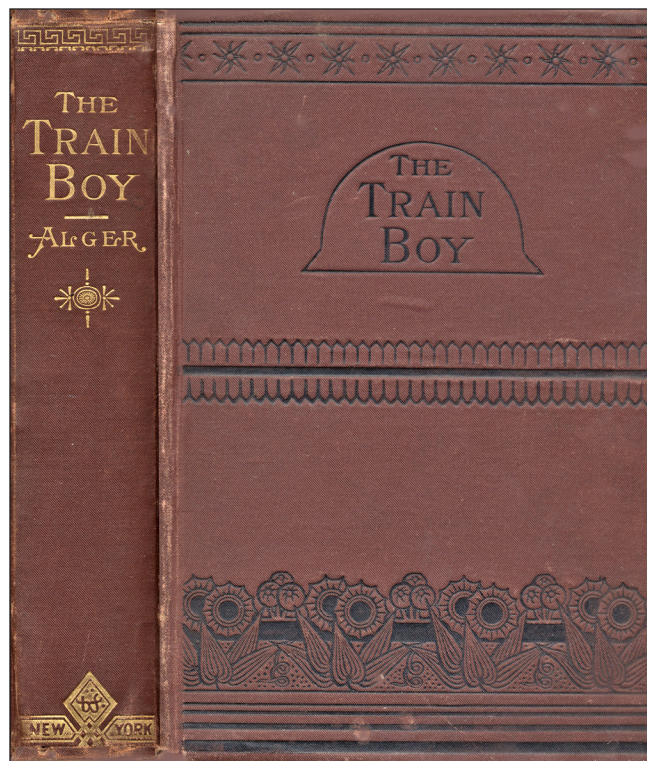
I also compared all of the above with my copy of an A.L. Burt (52-58 Duane Street) edition. GV, JF, KT and RK all have the MDCCCLXXXIII date and list both the Carleton and Street & Smith names on the title page. Bennett notes that “later editions list only the Carleton name and others list the date of publication on two lines instead of one.”⁶

Beginning with Greenwich Village and Keith Thompson copies, I tried to identify as many “faint,” “incomplete,” “bold,” “clogged,” and “filled” letter type flaws as possible in the thought that they might change in a consistent pattern when compared to the Jerry Friedland and Robert Kasper examples. This did not prove to be the case. There were a few examples

(Continued on Page 10)



Unique 1883 G.W. Carleton edition purchased by Keith Thompson in a Greenwich Village bookshop in 1956.



NIU’s Carleton edition with simplified spine design.

Alger's *The Train Boy*

(Continued from Page 9)

in each where a flaw appears in GV or JF or KT or RK only, but these could easily be attributed to variable inking and printing intensity within a single print run. The Carleton printing plates are plagued with non-uniform and slightly defective letter type. In addition, the capital letters and page numbers in the page headings vary markedly in printing intensity, but where observed, the patterns are consistent within all of the editions examined.

A very few examples of broken or defective type were identified. An example is the crooked stem "d" in the word "old" in line 1 on page 93 found in every Carleton version. The flawed "d" is still present as the plates passed to G.W. Dillingham & Co. and A L. Burt. The reader is encouraged to take any A.L. Burt edition of *The Train Boy* and check. Two striking examples of type damage, not present in GV, JF, KT or RK, were found in the Dillingham reprint. The page number "197" is incomplete and blurred in Dillingham and Burt. The page number "81" is heavily damaged in Dillingham but is repaired in Burt.

The Greenwich Village copy has a plain green buckram binding that lacks any lettering or markings that would identify it as a Carleton publication. The embossed rectangular lattice pattern on the front and back covers might serve as an identifiable marker for a specific publisher, but such examinations have been limited and have not been successful. Alger's name does not appear on the spine, and the title in gold capital letters, the only lettering, appears to have been hand stamped. The signatures are sewn securely with a heavy decorative backing, and the entire binding format is unfamiliar.

Importantly, Greenwich Village conspicuously lacks the two front flyleaves, the frontispiece and the five illustrations present in Jerry Friedland and the acknowledged first editions. There are no endpaper markings that would indicate it was ever sold in a bookshop. The right front endpaper has a penned presentation

inscription, "Mr John W. Plap/ From/ Wm. A. Buckley/ [elaborate flourish]." The number "711" is written in bold pencil at the top right of the first page of Chapter I. Perhaps importantly, page 143 has an interrupted stray diagonal print line running between lines 15 and 16. The flaw is unique to Greenwich Village and is of such a very bold appearance that the plate might have required correction after an inspection.

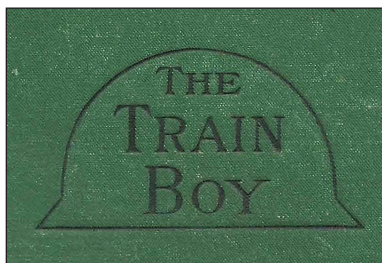
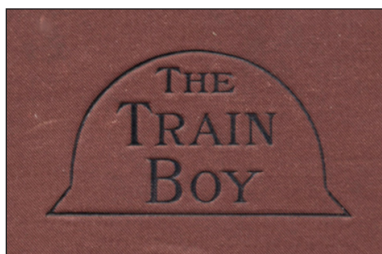
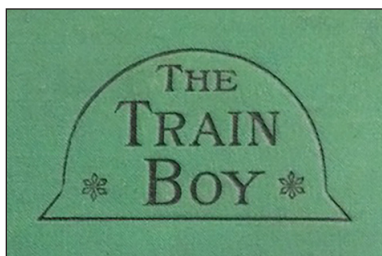
It is tempting to conclude that since the Greenwich Village copy was found in a bookshop only a few steps

from the G.W. Carleton address that it was bound on the house premises. Certainly there was a time when someone assembled the half title page, title page, contents page, text pages, advertisement page, and back flyleaf only, and had the pages bound either at Carleton or a publishing establishment presumably nearby. Did "Bill" do this late one night for his friend "John" before the first production run? Or possibly after the first production run from signatures without illustrations awaiting a never to be produced second printing?

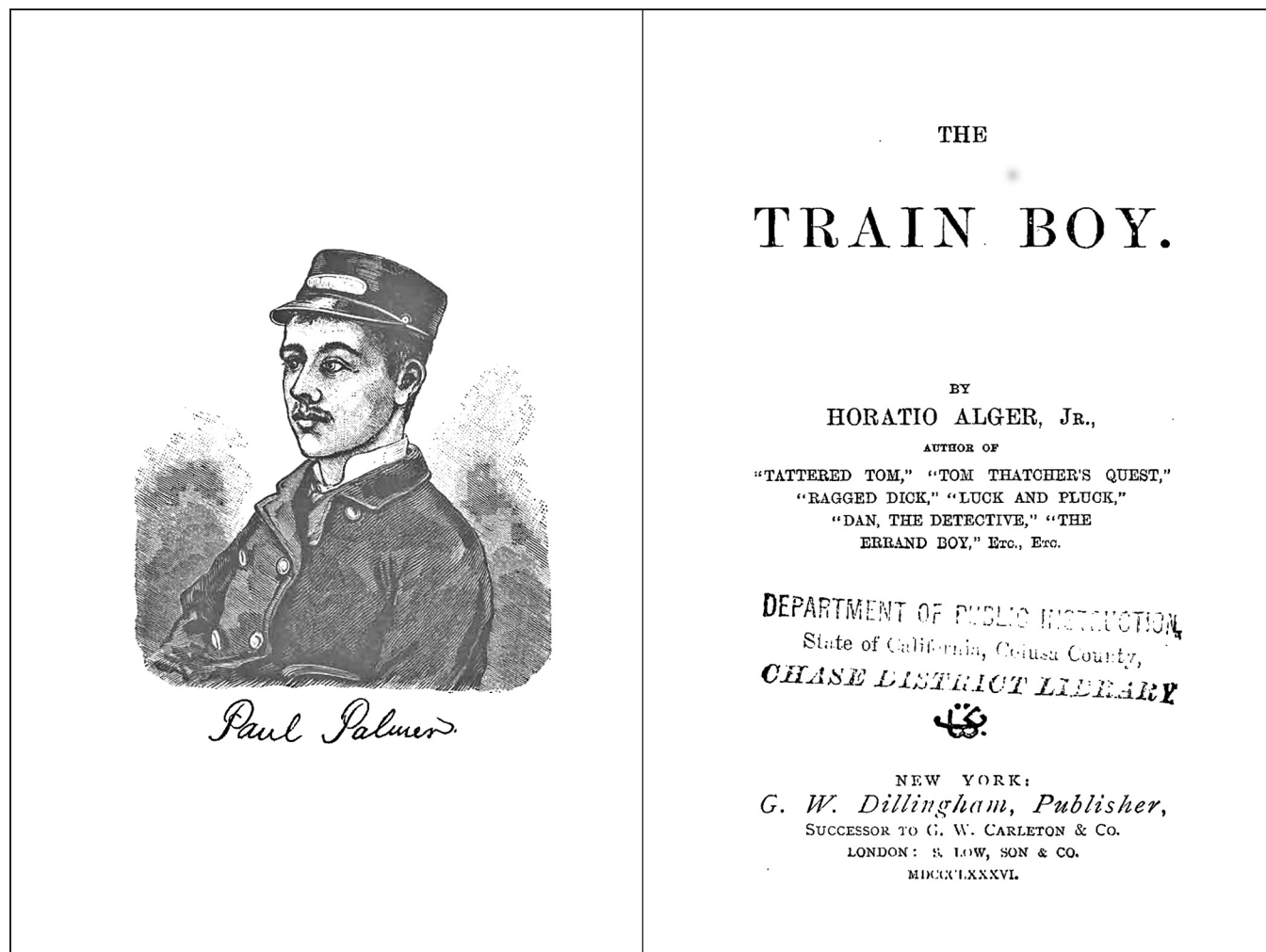
It would seem unlikely that anyone would remove the frontispiece and illustrations from an already assembled book in press. The question also begs: what could be the motive to have the book bound separately in a plain, unidentifiable binding? A possible explanation is that it was bound up internally as a file copy before the illustrations and frontispiece were ready and before a binding design had been prepared or agreed upon. If so, the penciled number "711" on page [9], the first text page, might be of some significance. The presentation inscription could have been added at any time.

The Jerry Friedland copy in the Horatio Alger, Jr. collection at NIU has

a Carleton binding with a very different spine design that does not use the "tall leafy flower" motif found with the regular first edition. The JF spine makes more generous use of gold, notably with Alger's name. Rob Kasper has seen images of both spine formats used interchangeably on non Alger 1882-1885 Carleton publications. The front cover of JF also differs. The two six-sided stars within the helmet title design, present in the regular first edition, are absent in the JF copy. The page collation of JF, including frontispiece and



Top: 1883 G.W. Carleton first edition. **Middle:** 1883 Carleton edition at NIU with no stars in logo. **Bottom:** 1886 Dillingham edition with no stars in logo.



Title page for the G.W. Dillingham reprint edition, which states "Successor to G.W. Carleton & Co." and shows a London publisher, along with the 1886 year in Roman numerals. The frontispiece portrait of Paul Palmer was carried over from the Carleton editions.

illustrations, is identical to the regular first edition.

Page 73 of the Jerry Friedland/NIU copy has marked background smudging over the entire page. This appears to be due to "offset" from the facing illustration. This feature, although found to a degree in Keith Thompson and Robert Kasper, might be particularly prominent in JF if the illustration was freshly printed when tipped in at an early point in assembly. Page 73 of Greenwich Village is completely free of smudging, a further indication that the GV copy was assembled before illustrations were added.

The Jerry Friedland copy is different in one other respect. The pages of Greenwich Village, Keith Thompson and Robert Kasper have a normal toning pattern on all four borders. The page borders of JF appear bleached; about one sixteenth inch deep on the top and bottom, and one quarter inch deep on the outer border. I can think of

no ready explanation for this condition, but the pattern is very distinctive and found on every page of the book. The notation "NS / 39" is written in pencil on the upper left corner of the first endpaper, and the name, "W.H. Pruden," in cursive script, is stamped in blue ink at the top of the first flyleaf.

The Jerry Friedland copy is the only known example of *The Train Boy* with the binding format pictured and described above. For this reason it has been speculated that it may have been made up as an alternative binding candidate for general production and subsequently discarded.

A curious feature of the Carleton bindings is the use of the six-sided stars in the helmet title design on the cover. They are present in all known copies of the Bennett first editions of *The Train Boy* (1883) and *Dan*

(Continued on Page 12)

Alger's *The Train Boy*

(Continued from Page 11)

the Detective (1884). They are absent in the Jerry Friedland copy and in the 1886 Dillingham reprint. This fact might signify a late binding of the JF copy that was carried over to the Dillingham edition. However, the six-sided stars are a decorative feature that would appear to be easily added or removed at any point of binding design or redesign.

Despite the striking differences between the bindings of Greenwich Village, Jerry Friedland, and the regular first edition, a careful examination of type wear and plate flaws does not permit a clear printing order. Minor differences among the copies are not consistent and may be attributed to variation in inking intensity and paper quality. Major letter type flaws were never corrected.

Plate flaws, including marginal lines and smudges, abound but appear in varying intensity in all of the examined copies, with the exception of the stray print line on page 173 of Greenwich Village. The Dillingham reprint of 1886 is relatively clean, and the Burt edition is also nearly free of plate flaws.

The same text block appears to have been used in all of the Carleton copies and the Dillingham edition studied. The relative rarity of *The Train Boy* with either the Carleton or Dillingham imprint makes it seem likely that the book did not have the sales and success to have made necessary more than a small print run. There is, however, evidence that the Greenwich Village copy was

assembled and bound differently from the version with the frontispiece and five illustrations.

* * *

Acknowledgements: Rob Kasper, who has long had an interest in the Street & Smith, Carleton, and Dillingham publishing houses, provided encouragement, source materials, and significant contributions to the text and study.⁷ I also thank the assistance and support from Lynne Thomas and Angie Schroeder at Northern Illinois University's Founders Memorial Library. For my part, it has been a selfish pleasure to relive the circumstances of the Greenwich Village adventure of 60 years ago and to relive the life and times of "Plucky Paul Palmer."

NOTES

1. Stern, Madeleine B., ed. "G.W. Carleton." *Publishers for Mass Entertainment in Nineteenth Century America*. Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall & Co., 1980.
2. "G.W. Dillingham Co. Bankrupt." *Publishers' Weekly*, Sept. 2, 1916. New Providence, N.J.: R.R. Bowker.
3. Gardner, Ralph D. *Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era*. Mendota, Ill.: Wayside Press, 1964, p. 472.
4. "Barclay Street-Travel." *The New York Times*, Aug. 31, 1865.
5. Alger, Horatio, Jr. *Ben, the Luggage Boy; or, Among the Wharves*. Boston, Mass.: A.K. Loring, 1870, pp. 9, 11.
6. Bennett, Bob. *Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography*. Mt. Pleasant, Mich.: Flying Eagle Publishing Co., 1980, pp. 114-115.
7. Kasper, Robert E. "Street & Smith's Rosedale Library and Other Promotional Material." *Newsboy*, Vol. 52, No. 2, March-April 2014.

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

book collection? Simple. In November 1909, Miss Hall married Arthur Stanwood Pier, who by that time was associate editor of **The Youth's Companion** and three titles into his 11-volume St. Timothy's series (1904-1930).

Even I would have a hard time explaining my successful bid on a document earned by Pier's spouse several years before

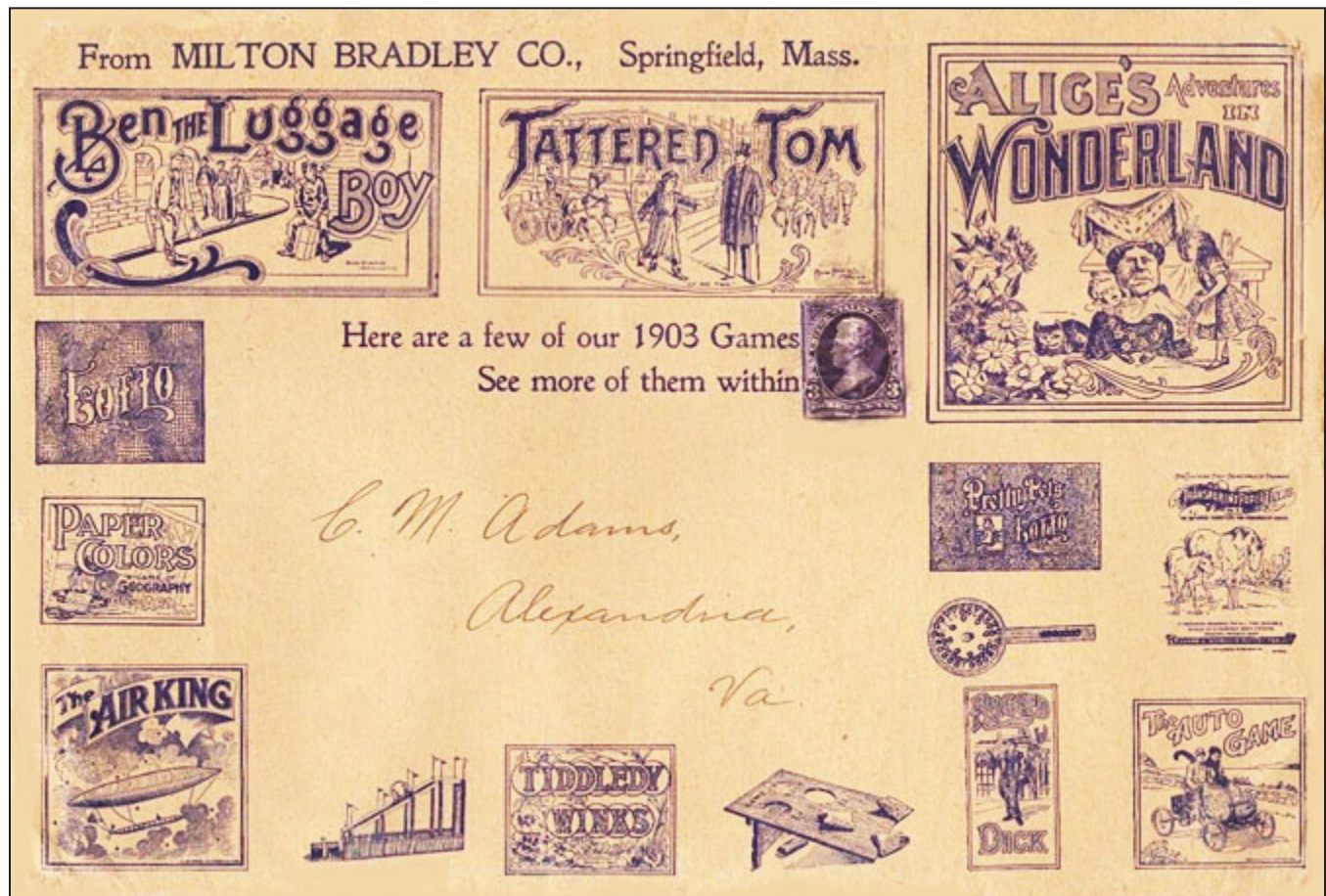


Arthur Stanwood Pier

they wed and quite possibly before she had even met him. But I saw it and wanted it and bought it. I would be curious to know what equivalent of Orwell's stapler my fellow Alger Society members have in their own collections.

This will be my last President's Column before I hand over the reins of the Society to my successor at our upcoming convention in Columbus, Indiana. I have enjoyed my time at the helm and taken particular pleasure in the chance to sound off in each issue of **Newsboy** on my interests and opinions. I appreciate your forbearance. Our hosts in Indiana, Bob and Wendy Sipes, have planned a wonderful gathering, and I hope that you plan to attend. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
 Jeff Looney (PF-903)
 1712 Concord Drive
 Charlottesville, VA 22901



An advertising envelope from the Milton Bradley Company from the collection of Cary Sternick (PF-933), showing board games being offered in 1903. The Horatio Alger-themed games “Ben the Luggage Boy” and “Tattered Tom” are prominently displayed, with a smaller image of the “Ragged Dick” game at lower right.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

several critically acclaimed historical novels, discussed by Sipes in more detail in his preview article.

Alger board games in the spotlight

In the September-October 2009 *Newsboy*, Rob Kasper (PF-327) wrote a cover story about the very scarce board games produced by the Milton Bradley Company of Springfield, Massachusetts, discussing games with stated tie-ins to Alger's *Ben, the Luggage Boy* and *Ragged Dick*. A blurb on the box states “Title used by permission of Henry T. Coates & Co., publisher of the book.” The article, with full-color photos, also touches on games peripherally related to Alger issued by other companies with titles such as McLoughlin's “The Errand Boy” (with no known tie-in to the Alger story of

the same name), and other non-related games such as “A.D.T. Messenger Boy,” “The District Messenger Boy” and “The Telegraph Boy,” etc.

Kasper had heard rumors that Milton Bradley had issued a “Tattered Tom” game based on the Alger story, but he'd never seen hard evidence it was published, let alone found in someone's collection.

Now, we have some evidence. Several weeks ago, Cary Sternick (PF-933), who in addition to series books collects related publishers' catalogs and advertising ephemera, emailed Kasper a scan of a 1903 promotional envelope from Milton Bradley (reproduced above) that clearly shows the box cover for “Tattered Tom.” The cover reproduces the book's frontispiece illustration showing the title heroine swinging her broom.

Does this prove the game exists? We won't know until an actual copy turns up, but Milton Bradley apparently intended to offer it in 1903, according to this promotional envelope.

Columbus, Indiana: a living museum of great architecture



Schmitt Elementary School by Harry Weese in 1957 marked the beginning of the Cummins Foundation's architectural commissioning program that has earned Columbus international fame.



The U.S. Post Office in Columbus (1969), one of more than 200 civic, institutional and corporate projects worldwide designed by the multiple award-winning firm of Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo.



The First Baptist Church (Harry Weese, 1965)



One of the most photographed buildings in Columbus is the Bartholomew County Courthouse, designed in the classic Second Empire style by Isaac Hodgson in 1874.



The Irwin Conference center, formerly a commercial bank building, was designed by Eero Saarinen in 1954, one of several Columbus buildings by the renowned Finland architects Eero Saarinen and his father, Eliel Saarinen.

BOOK REVIEW

Mike Adams: *The Radio Boys and Girls; Radio, Telegraph, Telephone and Wireless Adventures for Juvenile Readers, 1890-1945.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland, ©2015. 240 pages, softcover, with 86 illustrations, chapter notes and bibliography. Foreword by Christopher H. Sterling. Price \$39.95. ISBN 978-1-4766-6354-8 (print) and 978-1-4766-2345-0 (ebook). Place order by visiting www.mcfarlandpub.com or phone 1-800-253-2187. Ebook at www.Amazon.com and other sellers. For a list of ebook providers, visit www.mcfarlandpub.com/customers/ebooks.

Reviewed by William R. Gowen (PF-706)

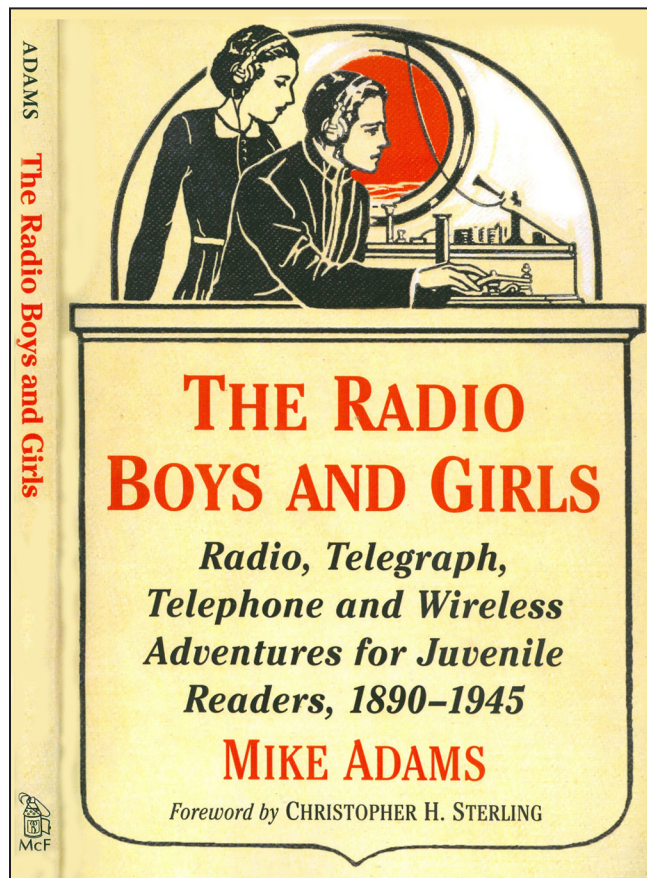
The golden era of juvenile series books came in the first third of the 20th century — from around 1900 until the early 1930s, at which time the Great Depression took a toll on series book sales, notable exceptions including the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew.

This period also saw many technological advances stemming from the Industrial Age that had peaked in the mid- to-late 19th century. In particular, electronic communications began to enter maturity, with Samuel F.B. Morse's perfection of the telegraph in the 1830-40 period, Alexander Graham Bell's first practical telephone (1875), Guglielmo Marconi's wireless radio research, and the inventions of Thomas A. Edison involving electricity, the phonograph and motion pictures.

The target readers for series books in the early 20th century were boys and girls ages 12 to 16 (give or take), and the subject matter of author Mike Adams' new book was fertile ground for the generations of youngsters growing up in an era when reading was the most accepted form of home entertainment. Books about radio and communications — and in this case, fictional series books — were perfect for the inquisitive young minds of the time.

It is likely the only sub-genres of series books equally popular with radio were those involving aviation and other emerging means of transportation. That's one reason why Edward Stratemeyer created the Tom Swift Series, which debuted in 1910 and whose syndicate continued to add new Tom Swift titles for several years following his death in 1930. Tom Swift, a teen-age inventor, had his fingers into everything related to science and technology of the period.

Adams discusses and analyzes radio and communications series books from a gender-neutral position, thus the title *The Radio Boys and Girls*. It covers the subject in nine chapters from all perspectives: a general overview titled "The Radio Century," which he breaks into four eras spanning wired communications via the telegraph (1890-1910), the early wireless era (1912-17), the transi-



tion from wireless to early "radiotelephone" technology (1915-20) and the important fourth era (1922-30), when radio entered the home via broadcasting.

In the main body of his book, Adams offers a chapter on "The Writers of Juvenile Fiction," including the importance of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and its contract writers such as Howard R. Garis and J.W. Duffield; along with discussions of other authors of radio fiction like John Henry Goldfrap (who used numerous pseudonyms), A. Hyatt Verrill, John Trowbridge, H. Irving Hancock, L.P. Wyman, Gerald Breckenridge and many others.

Subsequent chapters break down the publication of radio and communications-themed juvenile books into the four eras noted above. Those of us who collect series books will find many old friends here: the Stratemeyer Syndicate's **Radio Boys Series**, all but one title written by Duffield under the "Allen Chapman" house name; the Breckenridge **Radio Boys Series** published by A.L. Burt; Verrill's **Radio Detectives Series**; and **The Ocean Wireless Boys** by "Capt. Wilbur Lawton" (Goldfrap).

That's just a sampling. For female readers, we have the **Radio Girls Series** (1922-24) by "Margaret Penrose," a Stratemeyer Syndicate front for W. Bert Foster.

The book also has a chapter devoted to post-Great De-

(Continued on Page 16)

BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from Page 15)

pression radio stories, and a Summary and Conclusions chapter. Comprehensive endnotes are included for each chapter, along with an index and excellent Foreword by electronic media historian Christopher H. Sterling, author of more than 25 books in his field of study.

As good as it is, this book has a few factual errors in the "Writers of Juvenile Fiction" chapter, mostly due to sloppy transcribing from a recorded interview. For example, Stratemeyer Syndicate writer/partner Andrew Svenson's name is misspelled as "Albert Swenson," Edward Stratemeyer's longtime personal assistant, Harriet Otis Smith, has a change of gender to "Harry Otis Smith," and Munsey's Magazine is misspelled as "Muncie's Magazine." Also, Horatio Alger, Jr.'s, birth year is incorrectly noted from a source as 1834 instead of 1832, an error repeated often over the years.

Nitpicks aside, this book is a welcome addition to the personal library of any reader or collector of these classic books, and is of value to anyone interested in vintage radio and electronic communications in general.

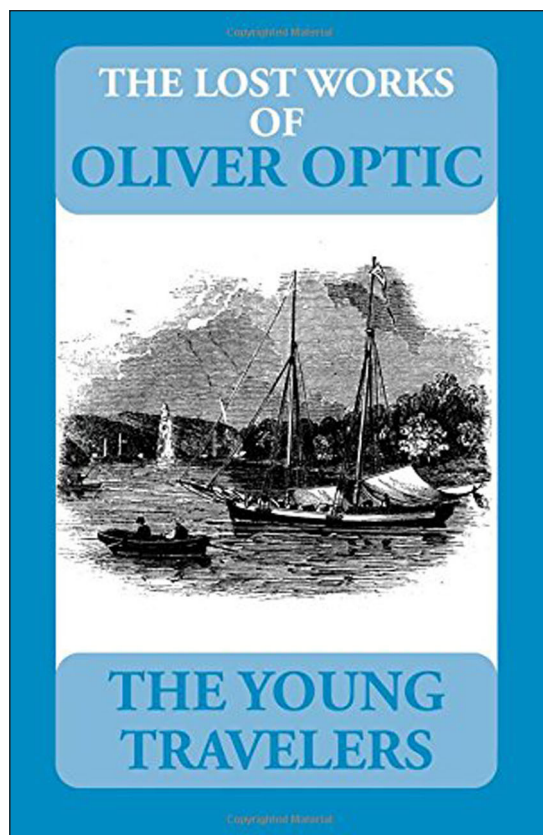
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