



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 – 1899

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

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NUMBER 1

2018 convention preview

'Falling in with Fort Lauderdale'



Preview story

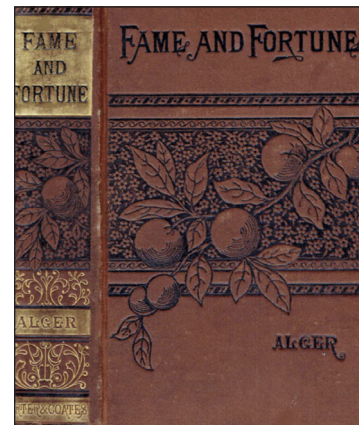
Registration form

Schedule of events

-- See Page 3

More on Porter & Coates Algers

-- See Page 3



Another Alger contribution to The Yankee Blade

-- See Page 15

President's column

Alger's heroes strive for success — but they still want to do the right thing

Sometimes when we think about Alger's place in American history and literature — and he plays a role in both, despite some efforts to denigrate his significance — it becomes clear that there is so much more to his work than the “rags to riches — poor boy makes good” theme which is often used to categorize him.

Those who have read many of his novels know that this image of rugged individualism is made more complex, first by the strong character traits shown by Alger's heroes. They strive for success, but they still want to do the right thing. None, for example, would stay involved with Wall Street speculators and manipulators, even though then and now that was seen as a quick way to a fortune (as well as either fame or infamy).

As a result of their sterling qualities, people well situated to help them — usually bankers or just well-disposed rich men — go out of their way to help these boys on the rise. Their hard work earns them respect but it is their character traits — Richard Hunter's bravery, for example, in diving into New York Harbor to save the little boy, who turns out to be the son of the banker who sets Ragged Dick on his way to Fame and Fortune.

Alger's villains — whether they be older skinflints or young sybarites — lack this milk of human kindness, which is what defines their bad character more than their sheer stinginess, meanness, or, alternatively, tendencies to waste money on unneeded luxuries. Since

(Continued on Page 6)



DICK SAVING JOHNNY

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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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

2018 convention preview

'Falling in with Fort Lauderdale'

By James King (PF-1126)

The 54th annual Horatio Alger Society convention rolls ashore in sunny Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on May 3rd through 6th, 2018, with an exciting itinerary of events, not to mention palm trees, sandy beaches and briny breezes!

Our group will "take the plunge" starting on Thursday, May 3, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, Fort Lauderdale Airport-Cruise Port South, 2500 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33020. Telephone: (954) 922-0011. The hotel is situated just a few hundred feet east of Interstate 95 at the Stirling Road exit, bordering the cities of Dania Beach and Hollywood. Parking is free for guests during their stay.

Reservations must be made by April 5, 2018, to guarantee our group rate and availability. Hotel rooms are \$109 per night, and the hotel has suites which have been made available as an option by the director of sales, Joanne Mercado, at the very attractive rate of only \$139 per night. The suites are available in the same configura-



The Tropical Acres Steakhouse in Dania Beach, Florida, will be the location for the annual Horatio Alger Society awards banquet on Saturday, May 5.

tions as the hotel rooms, offering either one king-sized bed, or two doubles, all rooms and suites non-smoking. Accessible suites are also available. Hotel stay includes free breakfast, Wi-Fi, pool, exercise room and business center facilities. Please don't delay in booking by the deadline as the regular published rates are much, much higher. Please identify yourself as being with the Horatio

(Continued on Page 5)

More on Porter & Coates Algers

By Robert D. Eastlack (PF-557)

This bit of research was inspired when I was included in an email exchange instigated by Barry Schoenborn. In that email Barry identified what he termed as an "odd" spine in his Brown Apple collection. He indicated that "there are two 'sections' of the spine that are laid down too high -- the title out of gold and the apples. That is the entire shift, exposing some extra gold at the bottom and covering up a little black at the top." (Example 1, page 9).

James Keeline's article in the last *Newsboy* provides a plausible explanation for the "odd" spine, but it does not fully account for the observations I have made.

Since I owned a Brown Apples edition of *Ben, the Luggage Boy*, I was able to compare my copy with Barry's



"odd" spine edition. It was different. My copy is the typical Brown Apples spine. This meant that the "shifted" spine was not limited to any one specific title(s).

I began by checking out the spines of my other Brown Apples and discovered that I had two "shifted" spine titles: *Fame and Fortune* and *Tattered Tom* (in a rather faded brown). I further discovered that this "shifted" spine appears on the two Green Apples in my collection. How many titles in the Brown Apples format carry this spine? Do the six Green Apples at NIU have this spine? These were questions for which I needed an answer.

As a way to gather data, I sent out an email to as many H.A.S. members as I had addresses, appealing to them for assistance. I received several helpful responses. Carol Nackenoff identified a "shifted" spine in her collection, *Julius, the Street Boy*. Ken Broadie was able to provide

(Continued on Page 9)

Editor's notebook

Buying on eBay can really get frustrating, but selling can be fun if you have an item up for auction that is either rare or in high demand for other reasons.

Former H.A.S. president Bob Huber had one of those profitable experiences on a recent weekend while selling items from the estate of his late father, Gordon Huber. Three items, in the category of book- or pulp-related ephemera, realized a total of \$8,574. The sold auction lots were a Leo Edwards **Freckled Goldfish Club** membership card and pin for \$515; a **Shadow Club** membership packet, including stationery (nine sheets) and a rubber stamp, for \$3,250; and best of all, a **Doc Savage Club** package, including membership pin and card, plus a rubber stamp, for \$4,809.

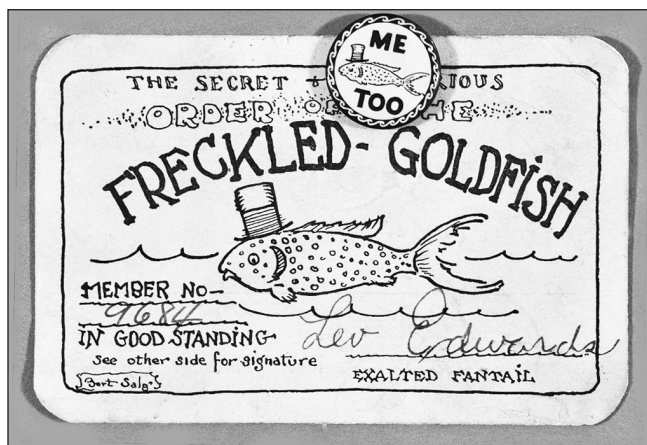
"The pulp magazine collectors are a lot more numerous with bigger bucks than the series book collectors, but I was pretty surprised the Shadow and Doc Savage stuff went that high," Huber said. "For the Shadow collection, two people were fighting for it. The one guy, according to him, is the 'world's greatest authority on The Shadow and has the finest collection.' There were about nine bidders for the Doc Savage stuff and at least five or six for The Shadow stuff, but then it boiled down to two on each one. I was really surprised the Doc Savage stuff went for \$4,800. I'm sure Street & Smith produced both these items, since they published the Shadow and Doc Savage magazines."

There were three people bidding on the Freckled Goldfish card at the end, with the winning bid at \$515.

"I looked for that card for 50 years and I never saw one," Huber said. "I never even knew that there was a pin."

As a fellow Leo Edwards collector, I can offer a little background on the Freckled Goldfish Club card. Leo Edwards (real name Edward Edson Lee, 1884-1944), wrote 39 books in five series published by Grosset & Dunlap between 1923 and 1940, with one title, *Andy Blake*, beginning life as the stand-alone *Andy Blake in Advertising*, published by D. Appleton & Co. in 1921. These stories generally were first published as magazine serials.

Beginning with the title *Poppy Ott and the Tittering Totem* in 1929, Leo started an anecdotal in-book feature called "Our Chatterbox," as a means of communicating with his growing number of young readers. The final new Chatterbox was issued in *Jerry Todd and the Flying Flapdoodle* in 1934, but G&D added the feature to reprint editions of pre-1929 titles from May 1930 to May 1931.



An outgrowth of the Chatterboxes was the forming of the Freckled Goldfish Club in 1928, and its membership reached a reported 25,000 when it was discontinued in the mid-1930s, a victim (along with the Edwards books themselves) of the Great Depression. A Freckled Goldfish Club card (signed by Leo) and membership pin were sent to each youngster who joined.

The late Bob Chenu was the most knowledgeable Leo Edwards collector I knew, and even his letters and book sales lists had a rubber-stamped title at the top, "Chief Mummy Inspector." He co-edited the Edwards fan newsletter **The Tutter Bugle** with Arizona native Bob Johnson, which came out in fits and starts between 1967 and 1975. In his article describing the birth of the Chatterbox (writing in the September 1969 issue of the **Bugle**), Chenu proudly noted he joined the Freckled Goldfish Club in 1929 as member number 2106.

MEMBERSHIP

New member

Joseph Alexander Osborne (PF-1143)
P.O. Box 1293
Alpine, TX 79831

Joseph, a teen-ager, has enjoyed reading Alger books as part of his home schooling. His initial one-year membership in the Horatio Alger Society was sponsored by Peter C. Walther (PF-548).

Change of address

Frederick Isaac (PF-1129)
5351 Belgrave Place
Oakland, CA 94618

'Falling in with Fort Lauderdale'

(Continued from Page 3)

Alger Society to get the convention rates. The discounted rate can be extended for up to two days prior and two days after the convention dates, but must be booked at the same time as the convention dates.

Hotel reservation information is summarized on the enclosed convention registration form, which will also be made available in PDF form online at the official H.A.S. website, www.horatiaoalgersociety.net. The hotel operates a complimentary shuttle for guests to and from nearby Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. Hotel check-in ordinarily begins at 4 p.m., but early check-in and/or luggage hold will be available for those arriving earlier in the day. Check-out is at 11 a.m.

In addition to the Hampton Inn & Suites' free shuttle service, the airport supports most of the major car rental companies. Miami International Airport is another option, about 30 miles south of the convention site, or West Palm Beach International Airport, about 50 miles north.

Amtrak's east-coast service stops at the nearby Fort Lauderdale depot for all you rail travelers. Taxis, Ubers, and even the convention host himself would be pleased to pick you up from the station upon arrival.

By glancing at the enclosed first draft of our schedule of events, Thursday's itinerary will be comprised of the usual convention registration (in the hospitality lounge with refreshments) and the end-of-afternoon Board of Directors meeting in the meeting room, followed by dinner plans of your choice with your fellow book-lovers (a list of local eateries will be provided upon arrival). Thursday is always a fun day to meet and greet old friends, so don't let this opportunity slip you by!

About the Fort Lauderdale area

There is so much to do and enjoy in this city by the sea. Most people think immediately of our beaches, and rightly so. Just a couple of miles to the east of our convention hotel lies mile after mile of pristine beaches, the hands-down favorite of the pale tourists we Floridians affectionately refer to as "snowbirds."

Fort Lauderdale beach runs from just north of the busy Port Everglades inlet, for several unbroken miles to the small community of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. But immediately to the south of the inlet one finds the unspoiled shoreline of days gone by at John U.



Nearby Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport is served by free shuttle service from the convention hotel and features most major car rental firms.

Lloyd State Park. With lush, native vegetation, you will see the beach as the pioneers saw it, except for the car parks, boat ramps, showers and picnic-pavilions, of course!

Fort Lauderdale beach itself also has parking, showers and picnic-tables, but boasts the added convenience of restaurants, beach-wear and souvenir shops just across the scenic palm tree-lined boulevard. Street-side parking disappeared years ago, but there are several convenient car-parks/garages for your "ride." Others might find it more convenient to car-pool with an Uber ride-share service to the beach. But, however you go, you simply must go!

From the beach, one has immediate access to other popular attractions. The Bahia Mar Marina lies directly across from the beach and is accessible by pedestrian overpass. In addition to its hotel and namesake amenities, the yachting center contains a veritable fleet of sight-seeing and charter fishing boats, with regularly-scheduled excursions as well as those for private hire.

Perhaps the most famous of these is the Jungle Queen. A local institution for decades, the Queen takes visitors on a roundabout tour of the maze of rivers and canals known as the "Venice of America" since Lauderdale's early days. The Jungle Queen is a double-decker faux paddle-boat steamer with several day cruises and an evening dinner-cruise and show. The tropical isle tour is a crowd favorite.

Also across from the beach (a bit further north), is the Bonnet House historic site and museum. Here is a chance to see the very last of the pioneer homes still standing, built when ocean-front real estate was plentiful. This charming mansion sits on an astounding 35 acres of precious barrier island soil, stretching from the ocean on the

(Continued on Page 7)

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

this was the 19th Century, women in his books tend to play secondary roles that reflected their real position in society. Mothers are being taken advantage of by greedy squires; daughters may be married off to men who are unworthy.

One realm in which Alger is especially upright to a fault in his novels is how people in his time spent their free time. Young men who spent time playing cards are generally associated with all sorts of vices, like smoking and drinking. Those who went to the theatre were also seen by Horatio as time-wasters and spendthrifts.

It made me think about exactly how people did spend what spare time they had. Alger seems to express the view that any kind of entertainment was detrimental to one's character. Granted, when he writes about theaters, he usually is speaking of rather low-grade places like Tony Pastor's rather than the refined atmosphere of opera performed at the Academy of Music, where Edith Wharton opens *The Age of Innocence*. Alger is willing to accept that rich people could indulge in the latter milieu, but it was not a place for his hard-working heroes.

Mostly what existed then were low entertainments like circuses and minstrel shows, and popular sites such as Barnum's Museum on Broadway. Alger holds out the prospect of staying at home reading something uplifting as the optimal way of spending one's free time. We, of course, need to remember that the options we know did not exist then: no movies, no television, and only the bare beginnings of the early theatrical worlds of vaudeville and burlesque. In fact, even electric lights arrived only in the 1880s. And we can readily ascertain how Alger would have felt about his heroes patronizing a burlesque house!

"Nice people" stayed at home and read books. They also visited their friends and engaged in neighborhood strolls where they would encounter amiable people with whom they might converse. In the country, women organized community functions such as quilting bees. New Yorkers who could afford it in the Gilded Age would throw huge dinner parties with more courses than we can imagine today. Less well-fixed folks enjoyed parlor games at home.

So it helps when considering Alger and the values he espouses to consider what the society of his day was like. We can regard him personally as a fine example of the "shabby genteel" — he had a Harvard degree (albeit in divinity, which won scant respect from many

of the rich and famous of his day), but not a steady income. He wrote to survive and then took on other jobs, such as tutoring the children of rich people, to make ends meet.

Thus, he likely had rather little free time. We know that he loved going to alumni dinners because he composed odes for these occasions. Sometimes his employers in the tutoring field would take him with the family on summer vacations to the shore. He managed to get



An undated portrait of Dr. Samuel Johnson by artist Gilbert Stuart.

some newspaper assignments that permitted him some European travel as well as journeys to the interior and West Coast of the United States.

But mostly, it seems he led the life of one of those itinerant writers Dr. Samuel Johnson classified as hacks. He ground out novels on similar themes until the reading public tired of them, and then he would

do the same with a slightly reordered theme. He punched out shorter pieces for magazines, mostly children's publications. So he managed but never was able to accumulate enough even from his best sellers to become independently wealthy.

He might have written a novel about himself except that despite his admittedly hard work, the success he achieved was modest. While he is not well-remembered today, at least his name still conjures up a certain kind of hard-working, honest young man intent on bettering his circumstances.

While never reaching the continued popularity of either Tom Swift or Tom Sawyer, it's more than Optic, or Trowbridge, or Ellis, his principal contemporaries as writers aiming at the book market for boys, accomplished. They are nearly unknown to the general public, while Alger at least stands for the rags-to-riches story when he is mentioned, usually in obituaries of corporate titans who rose from a less august background.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Richard Hoffman (PF-570)
2925 28th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20008
Email: derhoff@yahoo.com

'Falling in with Fort Lauderdale'

(Continued from Page 5)

east, to the Intracoastal Waterway on the west.

Immediately north of the Bonnet House is another rare ocean-side gem, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Popular with hikers, bicyclists and families, the park boasts acres of unspoiled tropical wilderness, picnic-tables with barbeque grills on the intracoastal bank, canoes for hire, and even a dedicated pedestrian tunnel to the beach.

Old American history and architecture are simply not to be found here. The area was originally named for a fort or stockade, built during the Seminole wars, abandoned, and lost to the sands of time.

A pioneer community known as the New River Settlement,

dating to the late 19th century, was spearheaded by Frank Stranahan, who built a trading post on the river to establish friendship and commerce with the native Seminole Indians. Stranahan's house still stands as the oldest structure in Fort Lauderdale, and is a popular tourist attraction. It's a two-story wooden house, dressed in Victorian amenities, still in its original location on the river in what is now the heart of "downtown," and stands as the last surviving artifact of pioneer life in this area.

Fort Lauderdale as we know it today didn't start to grow until Standard Oil magnate Henry Flagler brought his railway to Miami and built a utility depot here in the 1890's, and it didn't become a city until 1911. The oldest parts of town date to the 1920s, where one finds examples of the beautiful Addison Mizner-type Mediterranean revival architecture most often associated with Palm Beach and Coral Gables.



The Jungle Queen, a longtime Fort Lauderdale institution, offers several cruises along the area's rivers and canals, along with a popular tropical isle tour.

But enough of history, let's talk antiques! The quaint community of Dania Beach, immediately south of Fort Lauderdale, and directly east of our hotel, started as a tomato-farming community, but gained a reputation mid-century as a mecca for antiques. The luster of the district has somewhat faded in recent years, but there are still enough shops to entertain even the most jaded antique-hunter. However, if you like all your antiques in one place, then the Festival Flea market and Antique Mall is the place for you. It's located about a 30 minutes' drive north, in Pompano Beach.

And the mother of all flea markets is even closer! The self-proclaimed "World-Famous" Swap Shop, just west of Fort Lauderdale on Sunrise Boulevard, is busy seven days a week but it is a veritable madhouse on the weekends.

With an indoor mall, farmer's market and its own circus, the Swap Shop has it all, but bring cash 'cause it's still a real flea market.

There is so much more to describe than space allows. Suffice to say that Japanese gardens, Butterfly World, air-boat rides through the

Everglades, Margaritaville, and even indoor skydiving are all within easy reach. More details on attractions will be offered in the March-April **Newsboy**.

More about the convention

The enclosed schedule of events sheet details the itinerary for Friday and follows the general form of prior years, the festivities kicking off after breakfast at 9 a.m. with welcoming remarks from both the host and H.A.S. President Dick Hoffman, followed by our hallmark scholarly and thought-provoking presentations, along with the annual business meeting (open to all members) and following lunch, our much-anticipated consignment and donation auction.

As of press time, we are still working on our presentations. **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen is already set for his annual illustrated talk, but I have yet to be provided with other confirmed presenters or topics.

(Continued on Page 8)

'Falling in with Fort Lauderdale'

(Continued from Page 3)

However, I've no doubt our members will not disappoint, and I call upon prospective speakers to get suggested topics to either myself or Bill in time for inclusion on our updated schedule to be included with the next **Newsboy**.

Friday's luncheon is included in your registration fee and will be catered by a popular local sub shop. A platter with an assortment of 3-inch mini subs will be served, small enough in size and sufficient in number so members may partake of several varieties. Condiments will be on the side, so dress them as you like. Of course, coffee, tea, snacks and beverages will be available all day long.

Fair warning: don't eat too much, because following our annual afternoon auction, on Friday evening we will be off to Grampa's Bakery and Restaurant in Dania Beach, where they're as famous for their portions as they are for their great home-style cooking. This place is right around the corner (17SW 1st Street, Dania Beach), and has been a local institution for decades. It was once featured on the Food Network's TV show "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" with host Guy Fieri. Attendees will select from an abbreviated menu of entrée choices and the dinners will feature a full complement of courses and beverages, all included as part of your registration fee.

Again, look to the enclosed schedule of events for Saturday's details, but after breakfast and our morning book sale (which promises to be a good one), you're on your own for lunch and the have the entire afternoon

of free time. The Jungle Queen tropic isle tour would be a perfect fit. It embarks at 1:30 and returns at 4:30. I'm still open to suggestions for a group outing, but naturally, the afternoon is for you to spend your time as you wish.

This year's annual H.A.S. banquet will take place at the Tropical Acres Steakhouse in Dania Beach. Located at 2500 Griffin Road, it is legendary as Broward County's oldest steak-house and luckily it's just a short distance from our hotel. There will be a choice of entrees to be made in advance, either sliced sirloin of beef (served medium), or Seabass a la francaise. Please indicate your selection(s) on the enclosed registration form. The banquet meal is paid for in your registration fee and will also include a garden salad, potato & vegetable, a dessert, and coffee or tea.

As always, the banquet will feature a local keynote

speaker, the presentation of our annual **Strive and Succeed Award** to a worthy high school student, not to mention well-deserved plaques to some of our most dedicated members in the H.A.S. Annual Awards.

The convention rolls out with the morning tide on Sunday, providing pleasant memories, plenty of books to read, and hopefully, no sunburns!

So now is the time to make your hotel reservations and send in your filled-out registration forms, together with a check (preferred) or money order made payable to the host, James King, for the fee of \$125 per attendee. It is also possible to pay the registration fee to the host via PayPal. Simply contact me as instructed on the enclosed form so I don't overlook your payment.

Convention updates and more information on local tourist sites, including web addresses, will be provided in the March-April **Newsboy**, as well as particulars being posted on our the H.A.S. website.

Make your plans now, and we look forward to seeing all of you in May for a great convention!



The Bonnet House historic site and museum, set on 35 acres, displays one of the last surviving pioneer houses in the Fort Lauderdale area



A portion of the many Porter & Coates editions in the Horatio Alger collection at Northern Illinois University.

Porter & Coates Algers

(Continued from Page 3)

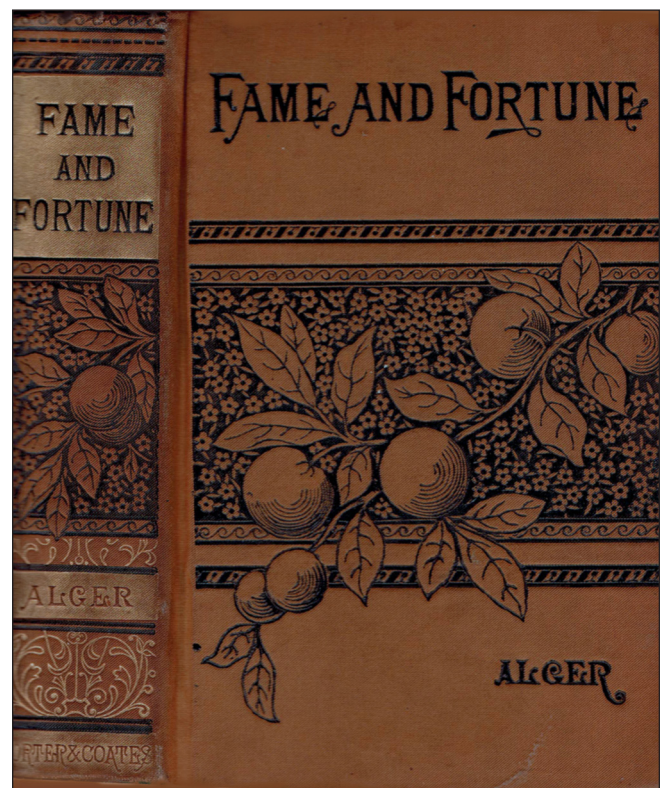
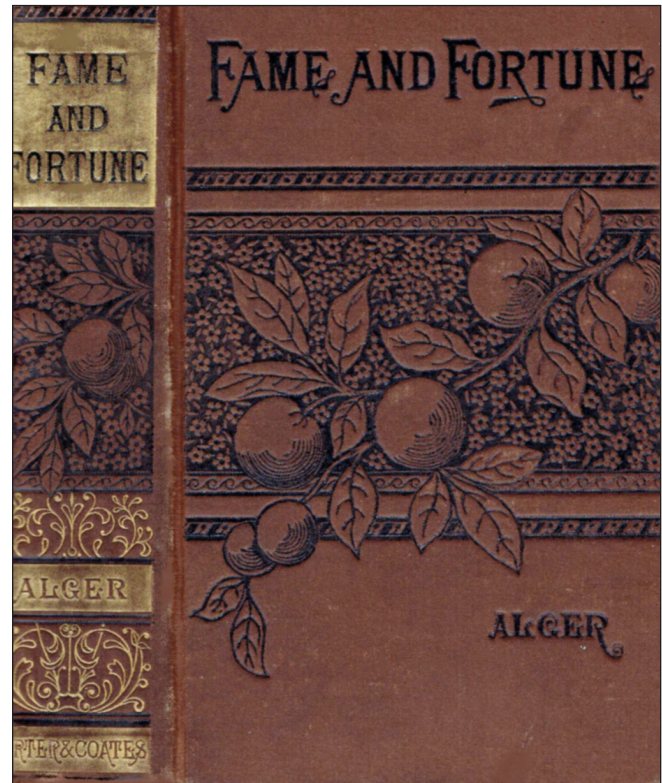
me with images of four more titles (*Paul the Peddler*, *Phil the Fiddler*, *Sam's Chance* and *Slow and Sure*) bringing the total to eight identified shifted spines!

Rob Kasper kindly shared an image of the Porter & Coates collection at NIU (above), wherein six Green Apples can clearly be seen, each having the "shifted" spine. All six titles are part of the **Ragged Dick Series**. Broadie lists three Green Apples as part of his collection and further identifies two titles in an Olive Green color (*Ragged Dick* and *Rufus and Rose*). Apparently both the **Ragged Dick Series** and the **Tattered Tom Series** made use of this spine, not by accident, but by design. When comparing the collation of same titles in Yellow, Brown and Green Apples it appears that the cover (binding) is the only distinguishing difference.

In his Postscript to Brad Chase's article in the November-December 2017 *Newsboy*, "Porter & Coates Algers revisited," Kasper indicated that he "... could not say with certainty that all 28 were issued in gold." I can say with certainty that they were.

Since the intention behind this research was to update the Porter & Coates data file for posting on our website, I also inquired as to the Red Berries (Vines) and Green

(Continued on Page 10)



Ex. 1: Porter & Coates' shifted spine and cover design, at top, and the usual Brown Apples edition, above.

Porter & Coates Algiers

(Continued from Page 9)

Berries (Vines). Once again, Kasper came through! His NIU image showed one Green Berries (Vines) title, *Try and Trust*. He also shared images of his two Red Berries copies: *Luck and Pluck* and *Strong and Steady*. Robert Kersch shared an image of his copy of *Try and Trust* in the Red Berries format. Since I had *Wait and Hope* in all three colors (Brown, Green and Red) it was easy to see from just looking at the spines that the Green and Red Berries were about a half-inch thicker than the Brown Berries version (Example 2). I believe that has something to do with the paper that was used. When comparing the type, it appears that the Brown Berries was the last one printed, as type damage is present.

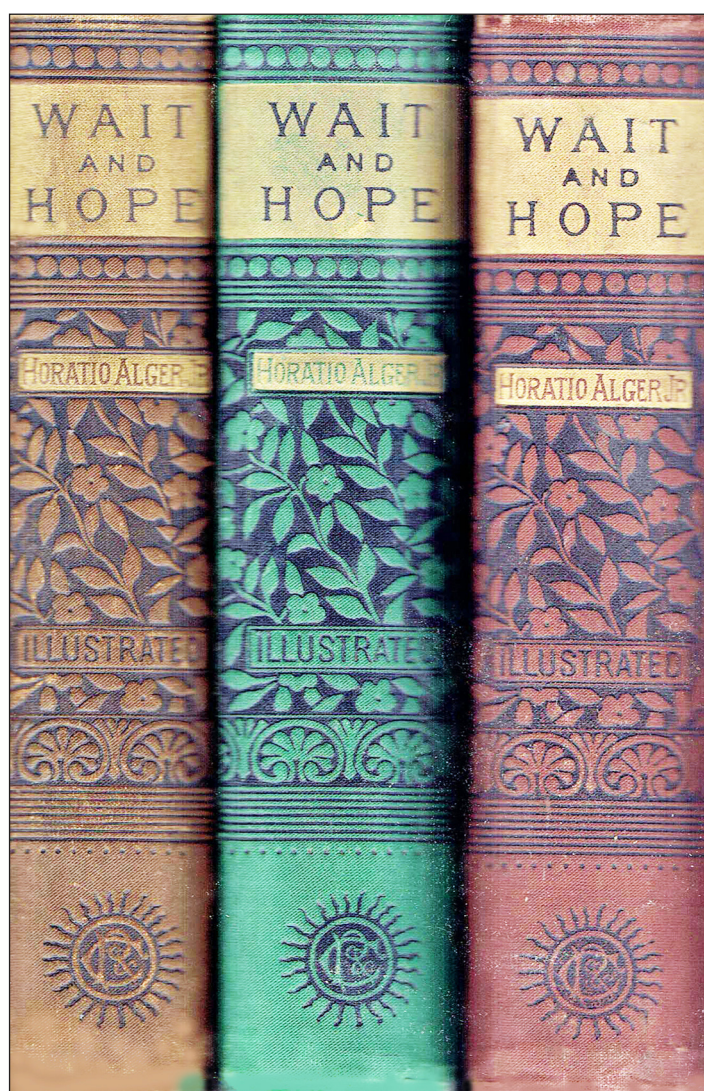
Based on the NIU image provided me, another observation is shared. My Porter & Coates data file includes four titles in the Red Lion-Gold format. *Shifting for Himself* identified in the NIU image is in what I refer to as the Red Lion-Green format (Example 3).

I believe that the Red Lion-Green format will incorporate those same four titles. That guess, on my part, was confirmed when Broadie shared an image of his Red Lion-Green titles.

I then compiled a revised Porter & Coates data file and shared it with Kasper. He pointed out some omissions on my part. He indicated that he had copies of the Brown Apples variant identified by Brad Chase's "A bite of the apple: Porter and Coates

Algiers: Part I," first published in *Newsboy*, May-June 1993 and appearing again in the most recent issue (November-December 2017, p. 9), wherein Brad writes:

A variant edition of *The Store Boy* has been observed in which there are no gold in the lower-third area of the spine, with "Alger" blind-stamped against a black background and "Porter & Coates" in a different style of lettering printed in black at the base of the spine. All other first-edition points are identical with the gold-stamped edition.



Ex. 2: The spines of Alger's *Wait and Hope* in Porter & Coates' Berry (Vines) format, observed in three cloth colors (L to R): brown, green and red. The brown edition is noticeably slimmer than the green and red, likely due to thinner paper. This format was used by P&C for reprints of Loring's *Luck & Pluck Series* (8 titles) and *Brave & Bold Series* (4 titles).

That specific title was part of Ken Broadie's collection. Kasper then sent me an image of that variant, identifying two more titles, *Ben's Nugget* (not a first edition) and *Mark the Match Boy*. (Example 4).

Initially, Rob disputed my claim that Porter & Coates published anything in the Palm Fronds (two fern branches) format, indicating that was used by Henry T. Coates and later, John C. Winston. I shared with him an image of "Helping Himself" that has Porter & Coates on the spine and the title page to substantiate my claim. The latter three titles appearing in this format are first editions issued by Henry T. Coates.

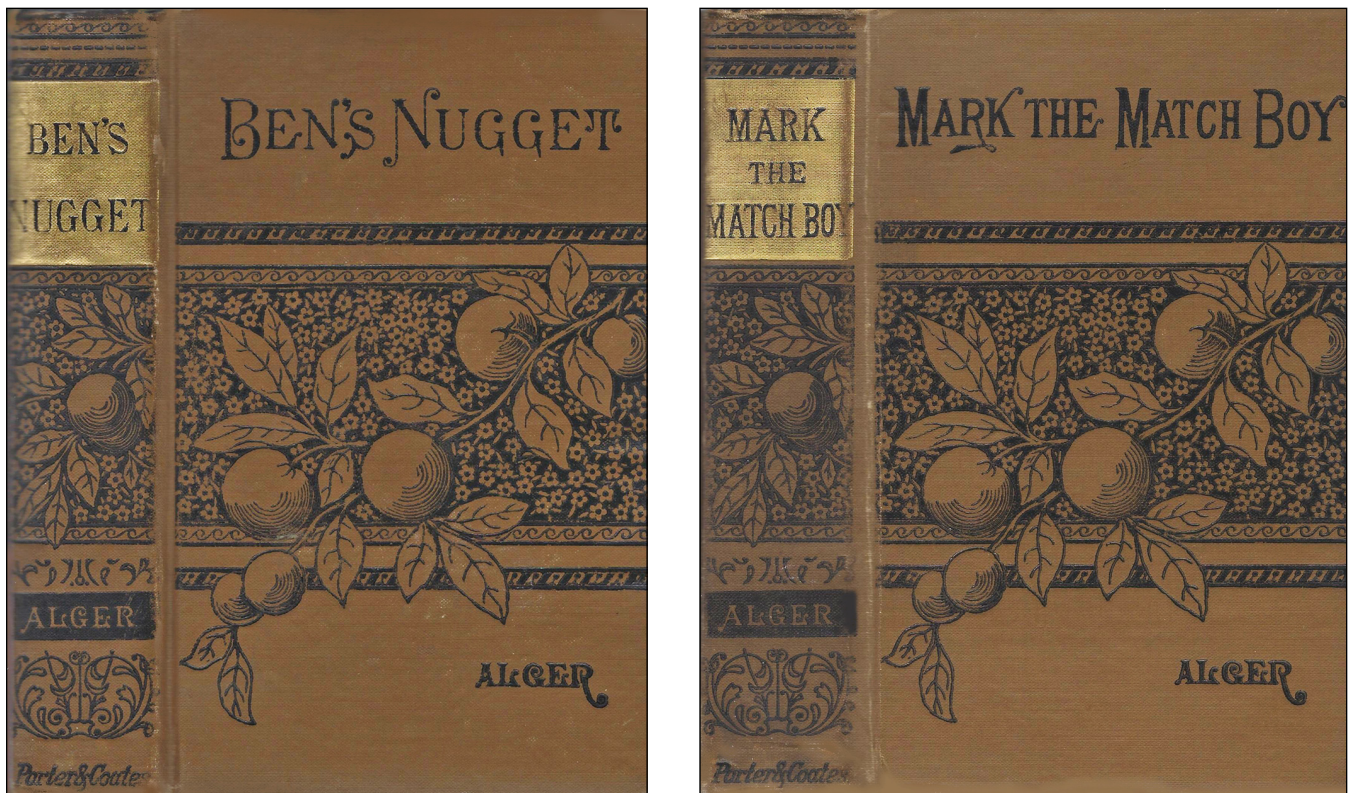
Rob also noted that there was a variant to *Helen Ford*, published in different colors by both Porter & Coates, and later Henry T. Coates.

Rob provided two images of this variation (one green, one red, see Example 5). I then incorporated this data into my Porter & Coates data file. Broadie was able to

(Continued on Page 12)



Ex. 3: The unusual Red Lion-Green cover, at left, was used in P&C's reprints of the Loring's Brave and Bold Series. The Red Lion format more commonly appeared with burnt-yellow (gold) cloth, right.



Ex. 4: The Black Spine/Brown Apples variant, with "Alger" blind-stamped against a black background.

Porter & Coates Algiers

(Continued from Page 10)

provide me with an image of nine different colors for the Alta Edition of *Helen Ford*.

* * *

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Rob Kasper for his assistance in helping to establish a rather complete listing of the Porter & Coates formats, now published on our website. Ken Broadie wrote:

"I have found 178 P&C 'Apples' in my collection that are sorted. I am moving my library to a new facility that is being built. It will contain over 32,000 Alger books from all publishers and formats (does not contain 21st Century publishers). I still have some Apples which are not sorted. (They are in sealed boxes). There are hundreds of P&C non-Apples which are sorted and many other Alger P&C books with non-Apple formats still not sorted as well." Ken took the time to look through his collection and provide images of needed formats. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

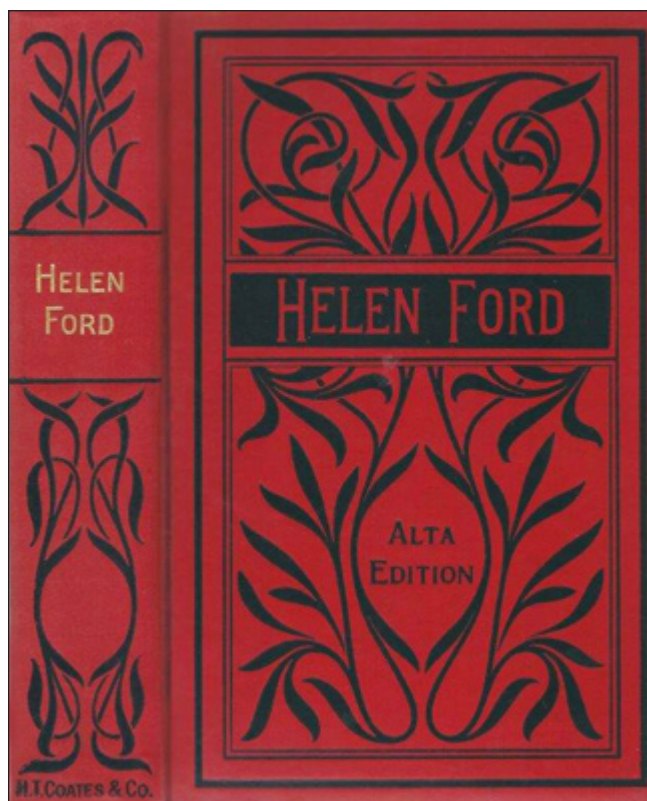
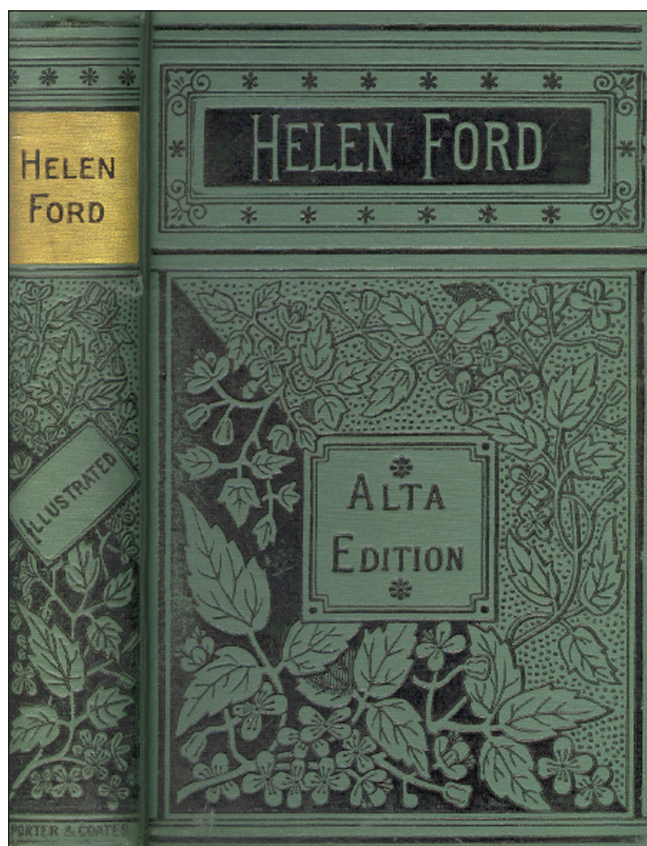
The information presented in this article could not have been gathered without the assistance of my fellow collectors. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Carol Nackenoff and Robert Kersch for the data they provided, along with the great support from our colleagues at Northern Illinois University. It is through the sharing of such information that the content of our website is both accurate and enhanced.

Also, thanks again to the cooperation and support of Barry Schoenborn, Broadie and Kasper, we now have 83 different publishers and their formats posted on our website. The latest additions and John F. Shaw and Ottenheimer.

* * *

Editor's note: Coming in the March-April *Newsboy* will be Brad Chase's article, "Alger firsts by Henry T. Coates & Co. ... continuing the tradition," originally published in September-October 1993 (Vol. XXXI, No. 5). Included will be upgraded images of the 11 first editions published by H. T. Coates from 1896 to 1903.


Ex. 5: Alger's *Helen Ford*, published in Porter & Coates' and Henry T. Coates' Alta Edition series of adult novels by various authors, has been observed in these two cover designs and in several cloth colors. The more common version is shown above, with the other design at right.

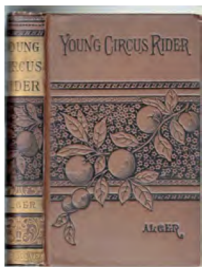


Last Update: 12.07.17

Porter & Coates

In 1881 it bought the stock, stereoplates, and copyrights of Horatio Alger's books from the bankrupt Boston publisher A. K. Loring. By Christmas 1882 the publishers took out a full-page advertisement in the *American Bookseller* to advertise eight series by Horatio Alger and six by Castlemon. Stern, Madeleine B.. *Publishers for Mass Entertainment in Nineteenth Century America*. G. K. Hall & Co. 1880.

<p>Format 01: Beehive</p> 	<p>Published 1890 4 Alger titles</p> <p>Bob Burton Luke Walton The Store Boy Struggling Upward First Edition (1890)</p>
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<p>Format 02 B: Apples (Brown)</p>  <table data-bbox="267 1470 738 1749"> <tr> <td>Ben's Nugget First Edition (1882)</td> <td>Young Circus Rider First Edition (1883)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do and Dare First Edition (1884)</td> <td>Hector's Inheritance First Edition (1885)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Helping Himself First Edition (1886)</td> <td>The Store Boy First Edition (1887)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bob Burton First Edition (1888)</td> <td>Luke Walton First Edition (1889)</td> </tr> </table>	Ben's Nugget First Edition (1882)	Young Circus Rider First Edition (1883)	Do and Dare First Edition (1884)	Hector's Inheritance First Edition (1885)	Helping Himself First Edition (1886)	The Store Boy First Edition (1887)	Bob Burton First Edition (1888)	Luke Walton First Edition (1889)	<p>Published 1882-1889 28 Alger titles</p> <p>Ragged Dick Series:</p> <table data-bbox="771 1186 1299 1312"> <tr> <td>Ragged Dick</td> <td>Rough and Ready</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fame and Fortune</td> <td>Ben the Luggage Boy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark the Match Boy</td> <td>Rufus and Rose</td> </tr> </table> <p>Tattered Tom Series:</p> <table data-bbox="771 1344 1347 1501"> <tr> <td>Tattered Tom</td> <td>Julius</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul the Peddler</td> <td>The Young Outlaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phil the Fiddler</td> <td>Sam's Chance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow and Sure</td> <td>The District Telegraph Boy</td> </tr> </table> <p>Campaign Series:</p> <table data-bbox="771 1543 1299 1627"> <tr> <td>Frank's Campaign</td> <td>Paul Prescott's Charge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlie Codman's Cruise</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Pacific Series:</p> <table data-bbox="771 1669 1250 1743"> <tr> <td>The Young Adventurer</td> <td>The Young Miner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Young Explorer</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Ragged Dick	Rough and Ready	Fame and Fortune	Ben the Luggage Boy	Mark the Match Boy	Rufus and Rose	Tattered Tom	Julius	Paul the Peddler	The Young Outlaw	Phil the Fiddler	Sam's Chance	Slow and Sure	The District Telegraph Boy	Frank's Campaign	Paul Prescott's Charge	Charlie Codman's Cruise		The Young Adventurer	The Young Miner	The Young Explorer	
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Above is the first of 11 pages devoted to the various Porter & Coates formats now displayed on the official Horatio Alger Society website. To date, Barry Schoenborn has posted 83 Alger publishers alphabetically, including thumbnail illustrations of book covers. On the right side of the home page, go to *New Publisher/Title List*, then click on *Publishers and their Formats*. If there is a specific publisher of interest, click on that publisher and view the file. You may also download the file to your computer. — Bob Eastlack (PF-557)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill,

Attached you will find an author's box from the W. L. Allison second format *Bound to Be an Electrician* (Working Upward Series). It's in dark green cloth, gilt lettering on the spine, and has the quad cover. This is the copyright page. What seems odd is that it lists both *Gun and Sled* and *Young Hunters in Porto Rico* as being available in Allison editions of the **Young Hunters Series**. Mattson and Davis states neither appeared in Allison printings in this format. I have both books in Donohue Brothers editions; indeed, my copy of *Young Hunters* is a Donohue Brothers with corresponding 1900 dates to the title and copyright pages, indicating a first edition. You may have seen this ad, but none of the other Allison reprints I have contain it. I figured this was a puzzle for you; if it's not familiar to you, it must be rather odd.

I checked the U.S. Catalogs for 1902 (no Allison or Donohue Bros. Stratmeyers, or his pen names appear) and 1905 (both of the titles in question are listed as Donohues). I would guess, though, that the 1897 **Bound to Win Series** titles would have appeared in the 1899 edition, which I do not have.

I have also discovered an ad for the four-soldiers cover used by A. L. Burt for some Otis books, along with at least one Ellis. These are the slightly taller deluxe editions which Burt labeled **The Continental Series**. Four titles are listed, all reprints, but I also have an Ellis which was issued a bit later and is not on the list. So, two of the three formats were series-designated, the other being the one-soldier cover (**The Yankee Patriot Series**). I'm still hunting for examples. The two-soldier cover apparently did not have a specified name.

It's quite cold here now, so a good time to dig into this stuff.

Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)
4657 Mason St.
Omaha, NE 68104
lewarcher@aol.com

I found the same advertisement (above) published in my 1899 Allison quad-design copies of Stratmeyer's Working Upward Series for the titles Bound to be an Electrician, Fighting for his Own and Young Auctioneers (all 1897 copyrights by Allison for its Bound to Win Series). The quad cover was carried over when Donohue Brothers purchased the plates, printed stock and cover dies from the bankrupt Allison in early 1900. A few of my Donohue Brothers copies of these titles contain this ad, but most do not.

This sequence of events is covered by the late Jack Dizer in two articles he wrote for Newsboy: "How Tom and Franklin

Popular Books for Boys and Girls.

Working Upward Series,

By EDWARD STRATEMEYER.

THE YOUNG AUCTIONEERS, or The Polishing of a Rolling Stone.
BOUND TO BE AN ELECTRICIAN, or Franklin Bell's Success.
SHORTHAND TOM THE REPORTER, or The Exploits of a Smart Boy.
FIGHTING FOR HIS OWN, or The Fortunes of a Young Artist.
Price, \$1.00 per Volume, postpaid.

Bright and Bold Series,

By ARTHUR M. WINFIELD.

POOR BUT PLUCKY, or The Mystery of a Flood.
SCHOOL DAYS OF FRED HARLEY, or Rivals for All Honors.
BY PLUCK, NOT LUCK, or Dan Granbury's Struggle to Rise.
THE MISSING TIN BOX, or Hal Carson's Remarkable City Adventures.
Price, 75 Cents per Volume, postpaid.

Young Sportsman's Series,

By CAPTAIN RALPH BONEHILL.

THE RIVAL BICYCLISTS, or Fun and Adventures on the Wheel.
YOUNG OARSMEN OF LAKEVIEW, or The Mystery of Hermit Island.
LEO THE CIRCUS BOY, or Life Under the Great White Canvas.
Price, 75 Cents per Volume, postpaid.

Young Hunters Series,

By CAPTAIN RALPH BONEHILL.

GUN AND SLED, or The Young Hunters of Snow-Top Island.
YOUNG HUNTERS IN PORTO RICO, or The Search for a Lost Treasure.
(Another volume in preparation.)
Price, 75 Cents per Volume, postpaid.

W. L. ALLISON CO.,

105 Chambers Street, New York.

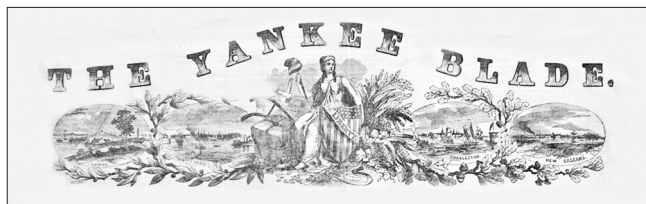
got from Allison to Street & Smith (with side trips)" in the March-April 1993 issue, and "Merriam, Allison — and a little Alger," in the July-August 2002 edition. In fact, this advertisement is also reproduced with the latter article, in which Dizer notes that *Young Hunters in Porto Rico* (written under the "Capt. Ralph Bonehill" pseudonym) contains a 1900 Donohue Brothers copyright. In his earlier article, he notes the *Publishers' Weekly* edition of April 14, 1900 announced that "Allison had sold out to Donohue Brothers of Chicago and New York, that firm having purchased the entire stock of sheets and plates."

Although the other *Young Hunters Series* title *Gun and Sled* was originally published in Allison's **Bound to Win Series**, *Young Hunters in Porto Rico* was caught up in the transition from the recently dissolved Allison firm and the sale of its assets to Donohue Brothers (which soon became M.A. Donohue in 1901). This was typical at the turn of the 20th century, when publishing firms came and went with regularity (bankruptcies, buyouts and/or mergers). Notable examples included the bankrupt A.K. Loring's existing Horatio Alger titles taken over in 1881 by Porter & Coates; the so-called "Mershon complex" (Mershon, Stitt, and Chatterton-Peck) in the 1899-1907 period; and Lee & Shepard becoming Lothrop, Lee & Shepard in 1904.

Horatio Alger, Jr. and *The Yankee Blade*

Introduction: Originally published in the Dec. 31, 1853 edition of *The Yankee Blade*, this is really the slightest of material. Hardly deserving the dignity of even being called a “sketch,” it is more appropriately a filler of less than one column in length. Alger here contrives a simple brief conversation in a restaurant between two unnamed persons. We at first assumed the protagonist (a country farmer) to hail perhaps from Maine. Yet as a member of a legislative assembly convening in Boston, he must have been a Massachusetts resident.

Our tyro politician loves baked beans and so he orders not one, not two, but five plates of this delicacy and polishes them off with gusto indeed. Upon his return home and when asked how he liked Boston, all he could rave about were those baked beans. I am reminded of a passage in Oliver Optic’s *Making A Man Of Himself*, in which



the author notes that the Massachusetts town of Beverly is famous for its baked beans. Maybe Alger had this in mind, too, and it suggested this sketch, if not its title, to him. Was our farmer friend a native of Beverly?

Many of you probably know that Boston, in the old days as well as in our own time, is still affectionately referred to as “Beantown.”

**Peter C. Walther (PF-548)
23 December 2017**

Original Sketches.

[Written for the Yankee Blade.]

SOME MORE OF THEM 'ERE BEANS.

BY CARL CANTAB

A legislative assembly, gathered as it is from all quarters and from every profession, must necessarily include all varieties of character[s], some of a most amusing kind.

Several years since the town of _____, saw fit to elect a sturdy farmer, whom the love of travel had never led out of the precincts of his native county, to the onerous post of “member of the general [*sic*] court.”

Arrived in Boston, our friend, being somewhat hungry, and desirous of taking something substantial “for the stomach’s sake,” found his way into one of our principal hotels just at the dinner hour.

He sat down to dinner, and being requested by the waiter to select from the bill of fare what dish he chose, expressed a desire for some “baked beans.”

This was brought him, and from the gusto with which it was eaten, evidently suited our Representative. The plate was cleared in an incredibly short space of time, and the attentive waiter was at his side.

“Will you have your plate changed?”

“Yes.”

“What will you have next?”

The bill of fare was consulted, and the guest announced his decision:

“I reckon I’ll have a few more of them 'ere beans.”

The second instalment was not long in disappearing. Again the question was proposed.

“Will you have your plate changed?”

“Yes.”

What will you take?”

“You may bring me a few more of them 'ere beans!”

The waiter turned away to conceal a smile, but did as he was ordered. He kept an eye on the new-fledged representative, and by the time his third plate was despatched, was by his side with the old question.

“Of course,” thought he, “he’ll want something else this time.”

“What dish shall I bring you, sir?”

The representative took up the bill of fare and followed its various items with his finger, till he came to the end, a process which occupied some ten minutes. He was apparently puzzled, but in a moment his face lighted up, and he said:

“I don’t care if I take a few more beans!”

They were brought, and we need not say, went the way of their predecessors.

“Perhaps sir,” said the waiter, as he took away the empty plate, “you would like some kind of pudding? We have all kinds.”

“I don’t know,” was the hesitating reply. “Have you got any more of them 'ere beans?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Then I guess you may bring me a few more to finish up with. I don’t want any pudding.”

For every day of the session our country representative patronized his favorite dish. When at length his services were dispensed with, and he returned to his constituents, he was asked how he liked stopping in Boston.

“Boston is a great place,” he exclaimed with enthusiasm. “Boston is a great place for baked beans!”

Strive and Succeed Award

*The Horatio Alger Society appreciates the generosity of its members in donating to the H.A.S. **Strive and Succeed Award** fund. The **Strive and Succeed Award** is presented each spring at the annual convention to a deserving high school senior to help defray his or her college expenses. The following Partic'lar Friends made contributions during calendar year 2017:*

Thomas A. Bayless (PF-294)
 Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)
 Glen Bontrager (PF-1007)
 Marlena Bremseth (PF-1123)
 James Broderick (PF-912)
 Ralph J. Carlson (PF-955)
 Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)
 Rory Coker (PF-1064)
 Robert D. Eastlack (PF-557)
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If you made an S&S donation in 2017 and your name does not appear on this list, contact us at 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176 and we will list it in the March-April Newsboy.