

VOLUME LXI

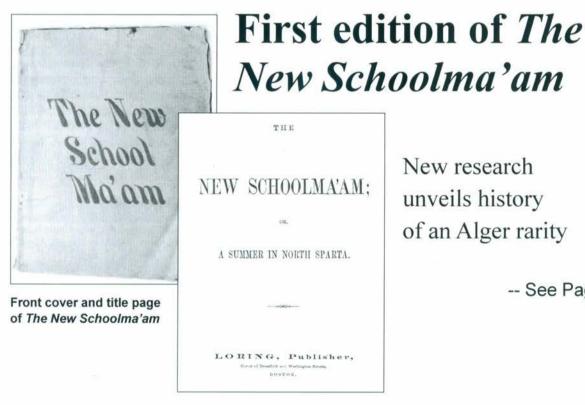
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

NUMBER 1

2023 H.A.S. convention:

'Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg'

-- See Page 3; registration form and schedule enclosed



New research unveils history of an Alger rarity

-- See Page 3

Is a series by another name still a series?

President's column

Guten Tag!

German greetings are apt, as it appears Horatio Alger's *Ragged Dick* has finally been translated into that Teutonic tongue.

It's curious, that with the unlikely exception of a Japanese translation of Ragged Dick by Tokyo publisher Taiyosha, there have hitherto been no known foreign language versions of Alger's masterpiece. Few, indeed, of others. Aside from another Japanese title, Secret Small Box (Struggling Upward), a couple of Czech translations of Luke Walton and Do and Dare, and the exceedingly rare Norwegian Skopusseren Tom (The Western Boy), it's the Germans who have led the way with four titles published in modern times.

Some may remember years ago, a German publisher, Lambda Edition Verlags, Hamburg, that put out three German translations. The publishers introduced Alger to their young German readers thusly:

"With a total circulation of over 250 million copies, Horatio Alger is considered the most successful boys' author of all time. The misery of street children inspired him to write his first boys' books, which became best-sellers right from the start. By the time of his death in 1899, 103 works had been created."

It was Lambda's intention to publish all of them in German editions.

The first, *Tom Tracy, Ein böser Verdacht*, literally, "Tom Tracy, a Bad Suspicion," was published in September 1987, kicking off the ambitious Lambda Abenteuer (Adventure) series.

Das Mädchen das man Tom nannte, "The Girl They Called Tom" (Tattered Tom), followed in November 1987, with the publishers noting that "... here, Alger proves once again that he is master of the book-art."

Curiously, the publishers invited boy readers to join their newly formed Horatio Alger Adventure Club. Membership was free and having "insane fun" was a stated objective. A free club newsletter would be mailed to members, and the Club promised to do everything it could to make the boys' adventure dreams come true. "It's going to be great fun! Perhaps we'll cross the Baltic in a lifeboat or follow in the footsteps of the notorious pirate Störtebecker for a week-end. Then we'll see how an exciting radio-play is made into a gramophone record, or how about a scavenger

(Continued on Page 4)

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 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," to Newsboy editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

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 those free "Alger for sale" ads to the editor at the above address, where you can also send "Letters to the Editor" by regular mail or by e-mail to hasnewsboy@aol.com.

Convention preview: 'Booking it' for 2023

'Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg'

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

Included with this issue of Newsboy are a registration form and tentative schedule of events for the forthcoming Horatio Alger Society convention. "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg" which will be held from May 4-7 at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

This will be the third year in a row we've based the Fredericksburg convention at the local Hampton Inn. Ilike to get together occasionally with sales director Chris Jones, just to touch base and keep the lines of communication open. I had lunch with him on January 31, and he mentioned that he and the hotel staff have genuinely enjoyed our visits—and I told him that we genuinely appreciate the special daily room rate of \$89!

As reported in last year's July-August **Newsboy**, Chris received the Society's 2022 President's Award for his capable and enthusiastic assistance with our conventions.

Chris said that they've made a few renovations to the building since the last convention. He added that with vacationers taking to the highways more and more



The Hampton Inn and Suites — South will again host the 2023 H.A.S. convention, "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg," on May 4-7, 2023.

Photo by Jack Bales

in recent months, the hotel has experienced a surge in business. (Of course, it doesn't hurt that he's right off of busy I-95, either). As noted on the registration form, the special room rate is good only until April 20; after that date the rooms will be released. The direct line to the (Continued on Page 5)

First edition of The New Schoolma'am

By Scott B. Chase (PF-1106)

One of the rarest of the Horatio Alger, Jr. first editions is *The New Schoolma'am*, published by A. K. Loring. I suspect many Alger collectors and enthusiasts, including me, have to settle for the limited printing Westgard edition published in 1976 to "fill the hole" in our collections while we continue the seemingly never-ending hunt for the Loring edition.

According to the article in **Newsboy** by Gary Scharnhorst,²it wasn't known until 1976 that Alger was the author of *The New Schoolma'am*. In the article, Scharnhorst discusses how authorship was determined as well as details of the title page and copyright page of the book in the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. There isn't a photograph or any mention of the details

of the front cover or spine, so I contacted the library and they very graciously sent me images of the covers of their copy. It appears that this book is hardcover and rebound in modern boards (see Figure 1 on page 6). The original Loring front cover is apparently not present.

Another copy of *The New Schoolma'am* is in the Harvard College Library. I learned that this copy is bound with another book, *Beautiful Edith, the child-woman,* by Gertrude Parsons. It appears that the Loring front cover isn't present with this copy, either. I am aware of two other copies but they have also been rebound and the original front covers are missing. This is unfortunate because it will be shown that for many of his paperback series Loring noted the series on the book's front cover.

(Continued on Page 6)

Editor's notebook

Convention time is only a couple of months away, and I hope you are planning to attend this year's gettogether, "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg," on May 4-7. Jack Bales (PF-258) has generously agreed to be our host for the third straight year, and what's not to like? He has negotiated a nightly room rate of \$89 (plus tax) at our familiar venue, the Hampton Inn and Suites, Fredericksburg – South. This is the third year in a row we will be paying \$89. Think about it — this is what a typical hotel in the Hampton Inn's class was charging 20 years ago. Last year, one of our late-registering guests was making his reservation by phone, and mentioning the H. A. S. rate, the clerk responded, "You really have a great deal. At this time of year (late June in 2022), that's usually a \$200 room on the weekend."

Last August, on a vacation trip to New England, I paid more than \$100 per night at each of two budget hotels, and neither offered a free breakfast other than coffee and juice, plus a bowl of apples "to go."

Call the Hampton Inn directly to the front desk by phoning (540) 898-5000. And don't put it off! Because we are scheduled for the already well-booked May 4-7 weekend instead of the June dates the previous two years, sales manager Chris Jones has set a firm deadline of April 20 for this special rate — NO extensions for procrastinators. Just make the call now and then cancel if a schedule conflict or other personal issue crops up. Also, because this issue of **Newsboy** is a couple of weeks later than usual, you will have much less time to act after you receive the next issue the first week of April.

In closing, I want to mention the annual Friday auction at the convention. Last year, we had no major collection consignment, so we asked for donations. And, many of our Partic'lar Friends came through — nearly all the sold lots being donations. We made just over \$1,700 clear profit. I brought two banker's boxes of books to last year's auction and they all sold well. I'm planning to do the same this year, and if you are attending, bring some donation books with you.

If you can't attend "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg" in person, just contact Jack Bales at his phone number listed on the enclosed registration and schedule inserts; he will provide guidance on where to ship books or other donated items safely in the coming weeks. Last year, we had several distant donors, and their generosity was much appreciated. Let's do it again!

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

hunt in the spooky forest, where the infamous bandit Spessart once plied his trade. Yes, these adventures still exist, and you can experience them yourself in the Horatio Alger Adventure Club!"

Alas, the fun was short-lived, for the next book, *Paul kämpft sich nach oben,* "Paul Fights His Way Up" (a condensed version of *Paul the Peddler* and *Slow and Sure*), in May 1988, was to be the last published.

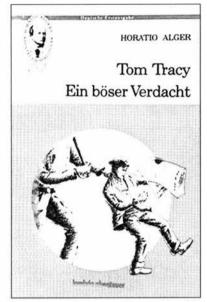
This book announced that the fourth title would be *Ein neues Leben für Phil*, "A New Life for Phil" (*Phil the Fiddler*). In fact, the title went well beyond merely the planning stage. In 1988, it was assigned an ISBN number. Both Amazon.de (Germany), and Amazon.jp (Japan), have had a dead listing on this title for years, indicating a publication date of April 1991. While Amazon publication dates are notoriously unreliable, even arbitrary, the fact that it quoted the book as being illustrated, hard-cover and 187 pages in length suggests that the book had been type-set, bound in pre-publication form (and possibly final form), and likely advertised as forthcoming.

There is no evidence that the book was actually ever released. Amazon likely created the listings just from ISBN and publisher's info. In fact, correspondence from Lambda's Michael Hartleben to Art Young in March 1997 confirmed that the hopeful series was abandoned in 1990 after just three titles.

Why Lambda didn't offer Ragged Dick first, or early on, we may never know, but we now have a recently published German version, translated and edited by Sarah Jost, M.A, of Waldbrunn, Germany. Apparently, she's made a specialty of translating the short stories of Lucy Maud Montgomery (Anne of Green Gables), and Eleanor H. Porter (Pollyanna), into German. Perhaps she will add more Alger to her repertoire.

This translation, titled *Der Zerlumpte Dick*, is copyrighted in 2017 with a stated publication date of December 7, 2017 (Kindle edition, August 25, 2018), and is based on the Gutenberg e-book *of Ragged Dick*. However, I never came across it while researching German translations of Alger in 2019. The paperback is independently published "on demand," so my copy states it was printed in Orlando, Florida, on January 6, 2023, the day after I ordered it!

The book is 5"x 8" with an unremarkable wraparound cover illustration, a colorized public-domain photo of a small boy in the alley of a tenement, and a tiny partial inset map of 19th century New York on the back. The monochrome interior illustrations on chapter







The three German-language Alger titles published in 1987-88 by Lambda Edition Verlags, Hamburg.

headings are small, crude at best, indecipherable or historically inaccurate at worst. I've not yet read the book, but a cursory examination seems to indicate a very close and faithful translation. The book is readily available on Amazon by mail order or on Kindle via download.

The upcoming convention in Fredericksbug, VA, is amply covered in this issue by our host, Jack Bales, so

it only remains for me to encourage everyone to come! Auf Wiedersehen,

Your Partic'lar Friend, James King (PF-1126) 711 East Plantation Circle Plantation, FL 33324 (954) 473-6927

Email: jamesreed9@gmx.com

'Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg'

(Continued from Page 3)

hotel desk is (540) 898-5000, and don't forget to mention the Horatio Alger Society to assure getting the special \$89 nightly rate.

Please keep this date in mind. Chris was able to extend the deadline the last two years, but he has indicated he can't do it this year because this spring promises to be a very busy period and bookings are already up considerably over the past two years. Incidentally, he told me I was fortunate to have reserved the large meeting room late last June, for many groups since then have inquired about booking the room for the same weekend as our convention.

Chris and I generally have lunch at Legends Grille, directly across the street from the Hampton Inn. Also, the hotel offers a fine complimentary hot breakfast every morning; in addition, several meals are included with your registration fee. But for those wanting to take a break and wander around a bit, they will find quite a few other restaurants in the immediate area, including the Waffle House, Denny's, Golden Corral, as well as

non-chain establishments. With each member's convention packet, I'll have a list of area restaurants and their locations.

Speaking of food, by popular demand, Friday's buffet-style dinner will again be held at nearby Castiglia's Italian Restaurant, and I will once again host a catered get-together Wednesday night for early arrivals. Last year we had something of an adventure with widespread storms and a couple of power outages. Fortunately, dinner was over and the caterers had left when the first outage occurred, and we continued to enjoy the evening, with flashlights right at hand.

More details are provided on the registration form and enclosed schedule of events, which will also be enclosed with the March-April issue. However, as noted above, I urge you to make your hotel reservations early due to the Hampton Inn's firm deadline of April 20. If something comes up and you find you can't attend, just phone the hotel desk to cancel your reservation. But I hope that won't be the case, and I look forward to seeing you at "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg" on May 4-7, 2023.

First edition of *The New Schoolma'am*

(Continued from Page 3)

It appears the series information for all these copies of *The New Schoolma'am* is lost.

The Alger bibliography by Bob Bennett indicates that the first edition of *The New Schoolma'am* was published in 1877.³ He indicates it is a paperback book with only the title of the book printed on the front cover in black. Recent research suggests that a different Loring printing is the first edition of *The New Schoolma'am*.

In the September 8, 1877 issue of **Publishers' Weekly**, ⁴ Loring announced, in the "Announcements of Forthcoming Publications" section, *The New Schoolma'am* as part of their "Tales of the Day" series. The announcement is shown in Figure 2. In the same issue of **Publishers' Weekly**, ⁵ there is a notice in the "Books For Fall" section further notifying readers of the new book (see Figure 3). My interpretation of the notice in Figure 3 is that *The New Schoolma'am* had not been previously announced or issued by Loring prior to September 8, 1877 in any series. This point may be argued, but what is clear is that Loring intended to issue *The New Schoolma'am* in his "Tales of the Day" series shortly after September 8, 1877.

A notice of the actual publication of *The New Schoolma'am* was not found in the "Weekly Record of New Publications" in the weeks immediately after it was announced. However, a review of the book is given in the October 6, 1877 issue of **Publishers' Weekly**. 6 This is shown in Figure 4. I've seen repeatedly in **Publishers' Weekly** at that time, that once a book is announced, it is published and appears in the "Weekly Record of New Publications" section within a week or two of the "announcement week," and almost always prior to when the book is reviewed.

This suggests with a high degree of certainty that *The New Schoolma'am* was published the week of September 15, 22 or 29, 1877, in Loring's "Tales of the Day" series even though a notice never appears in **Publishers' Weekly** in

A. K. LORING, Boston.

The New Schoolma'am; A Summer at North Sparta.
(Tales of the Day.)

Fig. 2: The New Schoolma'am announcement in **Publishers'** Weekly, Sept. 8, 1877.

LORING will shortly add to his "Tales of the Day" "The New Schoolma'am; A Summer at North Sparta," for which he anticipates a decided popularity.

Fig. 3: Publishers' Weekly, Sept. 8, 1877 — "Books for Fall."



Fig. 1: Front cover of The Huntington's copy of Horatio Alger's *The New Schoolma'am*. It appears to have been rebound in modern boards. Courtesy of The Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.

their "Weekly Record of New Publications" section on any of these dates.

A second point that supports the idea that the earliest appearance of *The New Schoolma'am* was in September 1877, is the fact that a review of the book was done October 6, 1877. In my experience, reviews of books are published upon the initial release of a new title and much less so upon a re-release of a title.

The two points together, the initial notice stating *The New Schoolma'am* being issued as part of the "Tales of the Day" series, and the review of the book a few weeks later, strongly suggest that the first edition of *The New Schoolma'am* is part of Loring's "Tales of the Day" series published in September 1877. Additional analysis of the available information further supports this conclusion.

Loring issued many of his books in series as is known from his hardcover Alger series, but his many paperback books were also issued in series. His paperback series include Loring's Railway Novels, Loring's Select Novels, Loring's Tales of the Day, Loring's Home Hand-books, Loring's 50 Cent Books, Florence Marryat Novels, and Loring's Hub Library to name some of his

THE NEW SCHOOL MA'AM. (Loring.) Miss Mabel Frost, a fashionable New York girl, wearying of her useless life, obtains a situation to teach in the country for a summer at New Sparta, hoping to become happier under the new sensation of being of some use in the world. She conceals her real name and her wealth, and goes to work as much in earnest as if gaining her daily bread. Her experiences are very amusing, as are also the descriptions of the scenes in which she takes part, such as the examination, the donation party, etc. She finds a lover who, thinking her a poor glrl, loves her for herself alone, and to whom she plays the good fairy of the children's books. Altogether a bright, wholesome, and very pretty story. 16mo, paper, 50 cents.

Fig. 4: Publishers' Weekly, Oct. 6, 1877, Book Notices.

most common series.

From the 20 Loring paperback books I have reviewed, the following are examples of a book title appearing in multiple Loring series. The following information comes from the advertisements within the books themselves. The book *Twice Lost* published anonymously appeared in Loring's Railway Novels, Loring's 50 Cent Books, and Loring's Select Novels. *A Lucky Disappointment* by Florence Marryat appeared in Loring's Tales of the Day, Florence Marryat's Novels, and Loring's Hub Library. *A Lost Love* by Ashford Owen appeared in Loring's Railway Novels, Loring's Tales of the Day, Loring's Standard English Novels, and Loring's 50 Cent Books.

There are many more examples but these illustrate how Loring conducted business by publishing his paperback books in multiple series. For a more complete discussion on Loring the man and details of his overall business see Madeleine Stern's book, *Imprints on History*.⁷

The practice of putting one book, a single title, in multiple series was a smart way to run a business. Loring had the plates for an entire book, so all he had to do was add a new series name to the front cover, slap on new front and back covers to existing text, and presto, he had an entirely "new" book. A clever low-cost way to market his paperback books to different audiences.

In addition to the examples mentioned, Loring also put *The New Schoolma'am* in multiple series. It appeared in Loring's "Tales of the Day" series as mentioned, and Alger's anonymous title also appeared in Loring's "Hub Library," as noted in Scharnhorst's article in **Newsboy**, and a third series yet to be identified but it is likely it was in Loring's "50 Cent Books" series. As a note, Loring's "Tales of the Day" series started by September 1868 and it ran to September 1877 and likely later. There are at least 30 titles in the series.

The notice in Publishers' Weekly for The New

New schoolma'am (The); or, a summer in North Sparta. Bost., A. K. Loring, 1879. 34 p. Q. (Loring's Hub lib.) pap., 15 c. A fashionable young heiress, tired of leading a frivolous life, accepts a situation at North Sparta to teach school; she is supposed to be poor, and wins the love of an honorable but poor young man.

Fig. 5: **Publishers' Weekly**, July 5, 1879, Weekly Record of New Publications.

Schoolma'am appearing in Loring's "Hub Library" is shown in Figure 5. The "Hub Library" started May 1879 with A Lucky Disappointment by Florence Marryat. The third book in the "Hub Library" is The New Schoolma'am which was published July 5, 1879. 10

An interesting side note about another business practice is the fact that Loring noted editions of his books as can be seen in the paperback book *Pen Photographs of Charles Dickens' Readings, Taken From Life* by Kate Field. ¹¹ The inside front cover of this book has an ad for Loring's publications (Figure 6).

It can be seen that many of the books listed are annotated with their edition. At the time this Dickens' book was published in 1868, *The Gayworthys* was in its 8th edition, *Pique* in its 15th edition and so forth. There is no edition noted for Alger's *Helen Ford* so it must have (*Continued on Page 8*)

Loring's Publications.

FICTION. CHOICE THE GAYWORTHYS. By the Author of 'Faith Gartney's Sth Edition. \$2.00 INTO THE LIGHT: or, THE JEWESS. . 1.75 15th Ed. . 1.50 PIOUE: A Tale of the English Aristocracy. SIMPLICITY AND FASCINATION: A Tale of the English MAINSTONE'S HOUSEKEEPER: A Tale of the Manufacturing Districts. . . 4th Ed. THE QUEEN OF THE COUNTY. BROKEN TO HARNESS. By EDMUND YATES. 4th Ed. RUNNING THE GAUNTLET. " " 3d Ed. MIRAMICHI: A Story of the Methodist Blacksmith. . MOODS. By LOCISA M. ALCOTT. 3d Ed. A LOST LOVE. By ASHFORD OWEN. . 4th Ed. For Young Ladies. PAITH GARTNEY'S GIRLHOOD. . . . 16th Ed. JUDGE NOT: or, HESTER POWERS' GIRLHOOD, 2d Ed. 1.50 MARGARET AND HER BRIDESMAIDS. . 4th Ed. MILLY: or, THE HIDDEN CROSS. A Romance of School Life. Life. HELEN FORD. A Romance of New York City Life. By HORATIO ALGER, jr., 1.50 COUNTESS KATE. By MISS YONGE. 34 Ed. 1.25

Fig. 6: Pen Photographs of Charles Dickens — inside front cover.

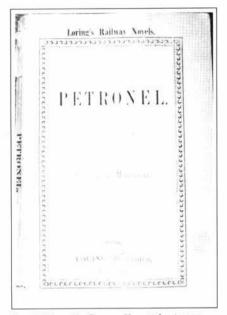


Fig. 7: Petronel by Florence Marryat, front cover.

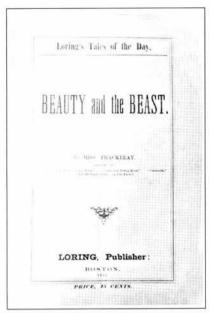


Fig. 8: Beauty and the Beast by Miss Thackeray, front cover

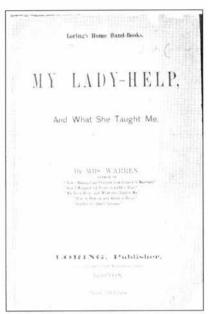


Fig. 9: My Lady Help by Mrs. Warren, front cover.

First edition of *The* New Schoolma'am

(Continued from Page 7) been the first edition.

The mention of editions is given in one other of the 20 books I reviewed and it is from the late 1870s, so he continued noting editions for more than a decade. Based on the prices shown in Figure 6 and the prices given for many of Loring's books I've studied, I believe these books to be hardcover editions.

It is possible that Loring noted editions in his paperback books as an advertising tool to try to sell more books. It appears that Loring was very busy throughout the 1860s and 1870s, producing multiple editions of his hardcover books and moving his paperback books from one series to another.

The edition described in Bennett's Alger bibliography for *The New Schoolma'am* and shown on the Horatio Alger Society website¹² is likely a later reprint, possibly in Loring's 50 Cent Books. This conclusion is based on the fact that there is no series given on the front cover of the book. As previously discussed, the first edition of *The New Schoolma'am* is part of Loring's "Tales of the Day" series. I have seen eight different paperback titles with Loring's Tales of the Day printed across the top on the front cover. So, to be counted as part of this Loring series, it must be printed on the front cover of the book. At least three of his series — Loring's Tales of the Day, Loring's Railway Novels, and Loring's Home

Hand-books — have the name of the series printed at the top on the front cover of the book. See Figures 7, 8 and 9 for examples of these series. His Florence Marryat's Novels and Loring's 50 Cent Books have no such heading. It isn't known if Loring's Hub Library has the series name on the front cover of the books or not.

One last point, the font used for the title of the book *The New Schoolma'am* shown on the Horatio Alger Society website is also used on a later reprint of Florence Marryat's novel *Woman Against Woman*. Figure 10 shows the front cover of *The New Schoolma'am* shown on the H. A. S. website and described by Bennett. Figure 11 shows the front cover of a reprint of *Woman Against Woman*. Originally, this title was published April 16, 1866¹⁶ and again in 1876 in Loring's "Tales of the Day" series. ¹⁷ This particular copy of *Woman Against Woman* was published in late 1877, 1878, or afterwards, as can be seen from the Tales of the Day ad listed on the inside front cover of the book, shown in Figure 12. It can be seen that *The New Schoolma'am* is the last title listed, which, as discussed, was published in September 1877.

The same list, with one title, Four Irrepressibles, in a different sequential position, is seen on the back cover (Figure 13) of the copy of The New Schoolma'am shown on the Horatio Alger Society website.

Not only does the Woman Against Woman book further support that The New Schoolma'am was included in the "Tales of the Day" series by having it listed on the ad page for this series, but it shows Loring used the slant font book title in book reprints. Use of this font was possibly a visual way to attract more buyers by having the book's title look interesting and differ-



Fig. 10: The New Schoolma'am, front cover.

ent. Although not conclusive, the use of the slant font on the copy of *The New Schoolma'am* seems to further indicate this copy is a reprint. It is possible that the two slanted font examples shown are actually part of Loring's Hub Library, since no copies from this library have been found to date. Additional research is needed to determine this.

In conclusion, this research has shown that the first edition of *The New Schoolma'am* is part of Loring's "Tales of the Day" series published in paperback in September 1877. To be counted as part of Loring's "Tales of the Day" series, the series name must be printed across the top of the front cover of the book. This research has also shown that Loring produced many of his paperback books in several of his series. This is true for *The New Schoolma'am* as well. After first appearing in Loring's "Tales of the Day" series it appeared in Loring's Hub Library and likely a third series, with the slanted font, possiblyas part of Loring's 50 Cent Novels. It isn't known if *The New Schoolma'am* appeared in Loring's Hub Library before the slanted font series or vice versa. Lastly, there is no evidence that Loring issued *The New Schoolma'am* in hardcover.

Owning any original paperback copy of *The New Schoolma'am* is a prize in any collection and one to be treasured. To date, I have not located copies of *The New*

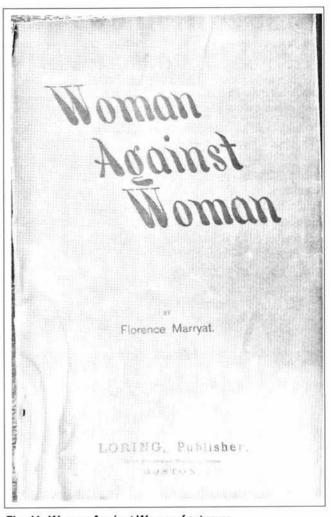


Fig. 11: Woman Against Woman, front cover.

Schoolma'am in Loring's "Tales of the Day" series or Loring's "Hub Library" series, but I am hopeful that someday copies will surface to delight Alger enthusiasts everywhere.

Author's note: I want to thank the many people whose hard work laid the groundwork for the success of my research. I was able to build upon their work without which my research and conclusions would not have been possible. My heartfelt thanks to all. I want to thank The Huntington for providing photographs of their copy of *The New Schoolma'am* in support of this research, and Rob Kasper for providing high-quality images of the Horatio Alger Society website copy of *The New Schoolma'am*. Lastly, I want to thank my wife, Lisa, for editing the different versions of this article.

NOTES

1. Alger, Horatio, Jr. *The New Schoolma'am; or, A Summer in North Sparta*. 1976. Des Plaines, IL: Gilbert K. Westgard II (self-published).

(Continued on Page 10)

First edition of *The New Schoolma'am*

(Continued from Page 9)

- 2. Scharnhorst, Gary. "A New Alger Title and First Edition." **Newsboy**, August-September, 1976 (Vol. 15, Nos. 1 & 2), pp. 11-14.
- 3. Bennett, Bob. *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* 1999. Newark, DE: MAD Book Company, p. 89.
- 4. Publishers' Weekly, Vol. XII, No. 10, Sept. 8, 1877, Announcements of Forthcoming Publications, p. 243.
 - 5. Ibid, Books For Fall, p. 253.
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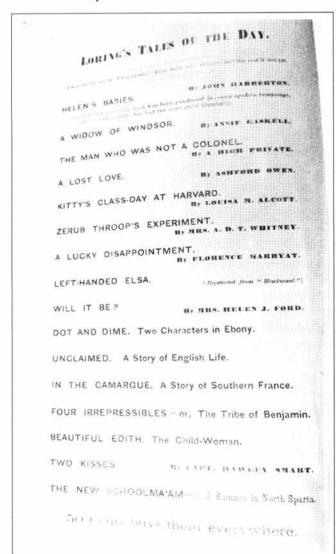


Fig. 12: Woman Against Woman, inside front cover.

- 7. Stern, Madeleine B. *Imprints on History, Book Publishers and American Frontiers*. 1956. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, pp. 178-190.
 - 8. Ibid, p. 15.
- **9.** Marryat, Florence. *A Lucky Disappointment*. 1876. Boston: A. K. Loring.
- **10. Publishers' Weekly**, Vol. XVI, No. 1, July 5, 1879, Weekly Record of New Publications, p. 4.
- 11. Field, Kate. Pen Photographs of Charles Dickens' Readings, Taken From Life. 1868. Boston: A. K. Loring.
- 12. Horatio Alger Society website: <wwwhoratioalger-societynet/102_firsts.html>.
- **13.** Marryat, Florence. *Petronel*. 1870. Boston: A. K. Loring.
- **14.** Thackeray, Miss. *Beauty and the Beast*. 1867. Boston: A. K. Loring.
- **15.** Warren, Mrs. My Lady-Help, and What She Taught Me. 1877. Boston: A. K. Loring.
- 16. American Literary Gazette and Publishers' Circular, Vol. VI, No. 12, April 16, 1866, List of books recently published in the United States, p. 341.
- 17. Publishers' Weekly, Vol. IX, No. 15, April 8, 1876, Alphabetical List of Books Just Published, p. 466.

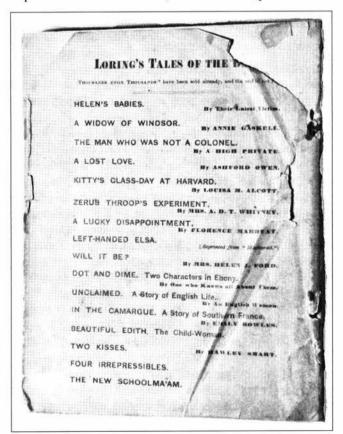


Fig. 13: The New Schoolma'am back cover, with Loring's "Tales of the Day" series listing.

Spotlight Books for Boys:

Is a series by another name still a series?

By Terry J. Booth (PF-1150) (Second of two parts)

Editor's note: In the first part of this article in the November-December 2022 Newsboy, the author presented an introduction and overview of this Grosset & Dunlap publisher's series, which appeared under several promotional names in dust jacket advertisements between 1936 and 1942. In Part 2, he goes into more depth on selected titles or groups of titles among the 33 listed on Page 15 in Part 1. Please keep that list nearby when reading Part 2, because the book descriptions herein are introduced by the assigned numbers on the list.

Additional comments on selected Spotlght titles

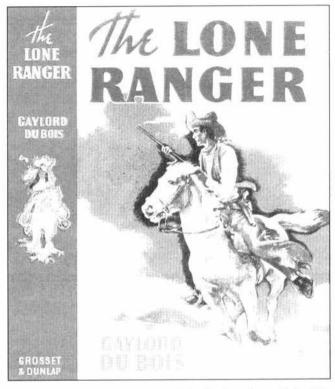
Books for Boys" titles were given careful examination to find noteworthy differences between editions and printings. It may also prove helpful to note other insights about each title and/or its author. The following comments do not claim to be exhaustive.

1. The Lone Ranger by Gaylord Dubois/Fran Striker. G&D's DJ indicates that the The Lone Ranger was named a Headliner because he was a character famous on the radio. It is not only the topmost book shown in the Spotlight series' early DJ ads, but the character is also among G&D's most successful series since it spawned another 17 Lone Ranger titles (see MAD 37400).

This is a curious book because there were two different editions issued within a year of the other. The earliest identified Gaylord DuBois as author on its front cover, spine and jacket (hereinafter the "DuBois imprint," above). The second one replaced DuBois' name to show Fran Striker as the author in the same places (the "Striker imprint"). Much discussion about this title has focused on the identities of the book's author, of the originator of the radio program which inspired the book, and of the writer of those radio programs.

All agree that George W. Trendle conceived the Lone Ranger character for a 1933 radio show, that Fran Striker wrote the show's scripts, but that Trendle hired DuBois to write the first Lone Ranger book. The DuBois imprint is thus the first edition. But Striker became the author of all later Lone Ranger books. For consistency, G&D then issued a 2nd edition about 1939 that replaced DuBois' name with his on its cover, spine and DJ (the "Striker imprint").

There has been much debate about the first issue points for the DuBois imprint, including several 2007



posts to a website maintained by DuBois' grand-dau. It opines (one suspects based on family tradition) that the first issue of the DuBois imprint had both Striker's and DuBois' names on the title page, while the second issue only had Striker's name on the title page.²

Unfortunately, the 2007 discussion (and other web commentary) made no comment about the books' dust jackets. Had the rear of several of the DuBois imprint DJ s been examined, the posters would have discovered there are in fact two states, the only difference involving *Tailspin Tommy*, (one of the "Four Headliner" books listed on the rear DJ panel). One state of the DJ shows Mark Stevens as the author, while the other state shows Hal Forrest as the author. Because all later dated G&D rear DJ panels show Forrest as *Tailspin Tommy*'s author, we can be sure that Hal Forrest is the second-state author.

Armed with this knowledge, some half-dozen Du-Bois imprints of *The Lone Ranger* were examined by the author. All jackets listing Mark Stevens as *Tailspin Tommy*'s author were found on books containing only Striker's names on the title page, making the singlename title page the first issue. The one copy with Hal Forrest as author contained both Dubois' and Striker's

(Continued on Page 12)

Spotlight Books for Boys

(Continued from Page 11)

names on the title page. Supporting this view of priority, a December 1937 gift inscription was found in a book

with the Stevens issue DJ, while the Forrest issue DJ was found on the book with a 1938 (no month) gift inscription. Despite the secondissue DuBois imprint appearing to be much scarcer than the first issue, scarcity should never be considered a more important measure than dust jacket evidence.



2. Flash Gordon by Alex Raymond. This title is stated by G&D to be included because he was a character famous in the movies. He was first introduced as a Sunday comic strip character in 1934 by Raymond, working with King Features syndicate. It was apparently a response to the popularity of an earlier Buck Rogers strip. The character also gained great popularity as a Big Little books title in 1934, and as both a radio show and comic book series in 1935.

In 1936 it became a popular movie serial, and G&D most likely added this title because of that popularity. But G&D's book (perhaps ghost written by someone other than Raymond) does not appear to have sold well, and it certainly engendered no sequels. While the book continued to be listed in all later Spotlight ads, the author has not yet found any evidence of a jacket printed after 1936.³

3. Tailspin Tommy by Mark Stevens/Hal Forrest.

Tailspin Tommy is identified by G&D as a famous cartoon strip character in its Four Headliners DJ ad. The character first appeared in 1928 with Hal Forrest as its creator. It was apparently the first aviation related strip to appear after Lindbergh's 1927 trans-Atlantic flight, helping explain its early popularity. The charac-



ter appeared in a number of movie serials starting in 1935, as well as in Big Little books and comic books.

This title is an important one for dating the early

history of the Spotlight Books group. It was earlier noted, for instance, that — like *The Lone Ranger* — it was assigned two authors, Mark Stevens and Hal Forrest. Stevens was almost certainly a ghost writer who wrote the book, while Forrest was both the creator of the character and the ongoing writer of the comic strip. The book was listed on Spotlight Books DJ ads for a number of years (all but the first with Forrest as author), but was dropped in the war years. There were no sequels to it, another sign that it did not sell well.

Tailspin Tommy holds the distinction of being credited with not only two different authors, but for G&D having issued separate editions in order to show those different identities (shown below). The first issue (the "Stevens imprint") identifies Mark Stevens as the author on the book's cover and spine as well as on its DJ front cover, spine, front flap and rear panel. The one mention of Hal Forrest identifies him as the comic strip's creator on the title page. The second issue, or "Forrest imprint," replaces Stevens' name everywhere — on the book's cover and spine, on the dj (including the rear DJ ad). Nor does

Stevens' name appear on the title page! The Forrest imprint and its DJ are very scarce.

4. The G-Men Smash the Professor's Gang by William Engle. G&D indicates this title was included because G-Men stories were in the news. Of note, James Cagney had just starred in a 1935 movie, "G-Man," that was widely



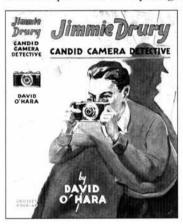
popular. It was also the era when the FBI agency became an important part of interstate law enforcement, with interactions with criminals making front-page news. This is Engle's only G&D title, but he went on to write several crime-related Big Little books for Whitman.

- 5, 6. Smiley Adams and Mystery House by R. J. Burrough. These titles came from publisher Longmans Green. Described as boys' sports mysteries, G&D was looking for a good home for the duo and Spotlight Books was it. Since both books have Smiley Adams as the main character, it is arguably a two-title series. Some Smiley Adams copies come with the Longmans' imprint, with G&D then putting its own wrapper on them. The Longman's format is about 1/4" taller, so the G&D DJ was cut 1/4" taller for it.
- 7. The Lone Ranger and the Mystery Ranch by Fran Striker. The second Lone Ranger title, this book has two different formats. The likely first issue (because several

features not repeated on later issues), has tan pebbled cloth covers with two cowboys on horses and another on the ground with a lasso. The endpapers are not by Laune, but three galloping horses by artist Manning De Villenueve Lee. It is perhaps a trial binding, with the more common issue having the familiar rider on a horse cover and Paul Laune endpapers. Both formats use the SPB (11) DJ with Striker as author of both Lone Ranger titles.

8, 13, 20. The G-Men in Jeopardy, Mystery of the Yellow Tie and The G-Men Trap the Spy Ring by Laurence Dwight Smith. Smith wrote the last two books in the three-book G-Man series, as well as the single volume Mystery of the Yellow Tie (with a near G-Man-like theme). Not much is known about Dwight Smith, but he did author a 1943 book, Cryptography, which likely much benefitted the war effort and is still quoted in today's books on the topic.

9, 10. Iron Horse by Edwin Hill and Pony Express by Forman and Woods. Both titles were reprints of earlier (1924) successful movies. The books apparently first appeared as photoplay editions. Both would appear to have qualified for Spotlight status because of their



movie success. Only *Iron Horse*, which has a SBB (4) rear DJ panel ad, was still listed in the final 1942 Spotlight Books for Boys advertisement.

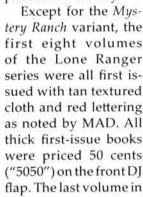
11, 14, 21, 30. Jimmie Drury Series by David O'Hara. This four-book series noted in MAD #34900 followed young photographer Jimmie Drury on a series of ad-

ventures in which his photographs help solve otherwise baffling mysteries or crimes. MAD notes the series was ghostwritten by noted juvenile series author Roy J. Snell. Snell authored more than 30 mystery stories for boys for Reilly & Lee, as well as many dozens of other girls' titles and books for Reilly and other publishers. The series was clearly worthy of Spotlight status since all four books were still listed in the final Spotlight ad, and may have qualified as an "in the news" topic. Lest there be any question that Snell was the author, this writer has seen a copy of *By Bursting Flash Bulbs* inscribed by Snell (in his characteristic slanted script) in which he states he was the ghostwriter of the book.

12, 18, 19. The Lone Ranger and the Gold Robbery; The Lone Ranger and the Outlaw Stronghold; The Lone Ranger and Tonto, all by Fran Striker These are the last Lone Ranger (hereafter "LR") sequels listed in Spotlight group ads. Like the first two titles, they were thicker

books (about 1¼" over the covers) on good paper, the thickness similar to other Spotlight books of their time. Since MAD's 37400 entry for G&D's 18-book Lone Ranger series does not note book thickness, several added comments about the early LR books and DJ s

may help explain their publication history.



the format was *The Lone Ranger Rides Again*, copyrighted in 1943, the first issue likely having a "Renfrew Books" rear panel DJ ad.

FRAN STRIKER

But wartime restrictions soon required format changes. A *Lone Ranger Rides Again* copy with an ACS (26) rear DJ ad (dating to early 1945 per Carpentieri's Hardy Boys DJs) has a different, thin red binding format with these further changes: (1) book thickness is halved to about five-eighths' inch, (2) acidic paper has been substituted; and (3) DJ price is shown as "P.C.J." (for price control). No thick LR titles, either first issue or later, are seen after 1944. While MAD notes the red cloth format was used for "some" of LR's 18 titles – it most likely was only used in the later years of WW II, with G&D returning to tan covers after 1945.⁴

15, 25, 26. 27. Don Winslow of the Navy Series by Frank Martinek. This four-book series, MAD #23600,



was based on a comic strip created by Martinek in 1934 about a spy-chasing naval intelligence officer. His Wikipedia article suggests it was created in part to act as a recruiting tool for the Navy.

The series proved popular, and led to a 1937 radio program, several movie serials, and an eight-book se-

ries of Big Little books for Whitman. Winslow is a bit of James Bond-like hero, as he chases after sinister

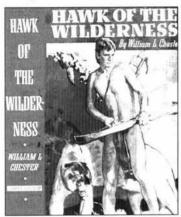
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Spotlight Books for Boys

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characters like the crafty "Scorpion."

Looking back, the series and plots can be seen as prescient of a major conflict in the Pacific. Martinek also wrote an earlier 1934 Winslow book involving the Scorpion, but it is not considered as part of the series

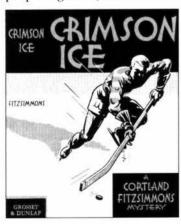


by MAD. Published by Rosenow Books in Chicago a half year after the comic strip appeared, the rear DJ of Don Winslow USN in Ceylon describes Winslow, the Scorpion and other major characters found in G&D's later version.

16. Stocky of Lone Tree Ranch by Charles H. Snow. Originally published by Macrae

Smith in 1932, there seems little to recommend, including this title, as a Spotlight book. Perhaps it was a way to publicize G&D's line of juvenile dog stories, five others of which are listed on the *Stocky*'s rear DI.

17. Hawk of the Wilderness by William L. Chester. The story is a Tarzan-like tale with two shipwrecked survivors, a young boy and a servant, who survive in a jungle-like setting. It first appeared in *Bluebook* (a pulp magazine) in 1934 and was published as a book



by Harper & Brothers in 1935. G&D likely acquired the title from Harper's after it became a successful film serial in 1938. The colorful DJ first appeared as a Bluebook cover, then by Harper, and finally by Grosset & Dunlap. The G&D first issue was likely the photoplay edition with a Lone Ranger by Fran Striker

rear-flap advertisement (about 1938).

22, 23, 24. Crimson Ice; 70,000 Witnesses; and Death on the Diamond by Cortland Fitzsimmons. These three titles by noted mystery writer Fitzsimmons may be the only sports mysteries he ever wrote. The main title, 70,000 Witnesses, was a successful 1932 movie and likely explains its inclusion as a Spotlight title. But all three

titles were dropped from the Spotlight group within a year, and none ever made it to a rear DJ Spotlight Books ad. Perhaps they were best seen as better marketed alongside G&D's many other mystery titles.

28, 29, 33. Steve Knight Flying Stories Series by Ted Copp.⁵ Two of the 3 books in this aviation series, MAD #55800, are dated before Pearl Harbor, and the last (*The Phantom Fleet*) was written shortly thereafter. Arguably the placement of the air combat icon on the

Spotlight DJ in 1941 was due to the appearance of Copp's first two titles. But Copp was more a mystery and adventure writer than an aircraft expert, and his books are not high on technical credibility.

The Phantom Fleet, the last book in his Steve Knight series, provides insight into Copp's approach. It is



an incredulous tale of Knight and two buddies being on a downed sabotaged plane 300 miles from Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Their not very detailed mechanical skills allow them to repair the aircraft and fly out.

On their way back to Hawaii they serendipitously spot a hidden Japanese submarine base with an aircraft carrier nearby. Their plane is crippled after shooting down 6 (!!) Japanese fighters, and they crash

land unnoticed(!!). Silently entering the Japanese base, they sink 6 (!!) submarines after boarding them, capturing and locking away many prisoners. They then steal a Japanese plane from the carrier (!!) in order to fly back to Hawaii. Once back, our hero then commandeers several Army B-17



bombers (Navy planes having all been destroyed) to bomb and sink(!!) the hidden carrier. The implausibility of the story no doubt explains why no more sequels.

His obituary (as Theodore B. Copp, age 42) was published in the 3 January 1945 **New York Times**. It notes he was in advertising, working for Met Life and others. These three titles were his only books, but he also wrote

for pulps. Not to be outdone by his own fiction, the obit lastly notes he died in his sleep the evening after his mother's death, having just posted his mother's obit to the **Times** before returning home.

31,32. Lucky Terrell Flying Stories: Spitfire Pilot and Sky Attack by Canfield Cook. These two titles are the first of an eight-book flying stories series, MAD #37800. Their quality more than justifies the air combat icon on the Spotlight Books rear DJ.

Cook is considered to be among the best — if not the best — air combat author of WWII. The reader is referred to an outstanding nine-page paper on Cook and his work. Written by aviation expert David K. Vaughn (PF-831), it is an expanded version of his paper read at the 2013 Popular Culture Association conference. Available online, it summarizes these two books as well as the others in the series.⁶

NOTES

- 1. Web address < gaylorddubois.blogspot.com/2007/01/lone-ranger-first-edition.html>.
- 2. While juvenile series expert James D. Keeline (PF-898) posted to the website, only general issues associated with printing priorities and dating were noted. There is no indication Keeline examined the book itself.
- Read the Wikipedia article on Flash Gordon at <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash Gordon>.
- **4.** A review of Lone Ranger titles for sale on eBay and AbeBooks found no titles after *The Lone Ranger Rides Again* with red covers.
- 5. The Mystery of Devil's Hand (1941); A Bridge of Bombers (1941); The Phantom Fleet (1942).
- Visit web address <www.academia.edu/5871050/ Canfield_Cook_PCA>.

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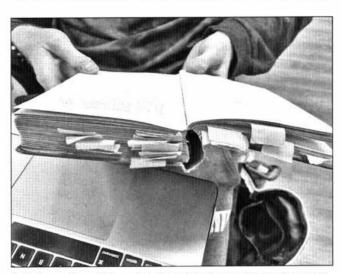
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



A University of Mary Washington economics class student holds a copy of Alger's *Mark Mason's Victory*, with key pages indicated with bookmarks. Photo by Jack Bales

Dear Bill,

I thought the color illustrations turned out great in the last **Newsboy**, and thank you for using the photograph of my Jerry Todd books.

A couple of sharp-eyed readers wondered why all of the books except for two have spine drawings on the dust jackets. H.A.S. member Bart Nyberg has been a well-known Leo Edwards collector for decades, and he told me that "the little spine doodad first appeared on *Poppy Ott's Pedigreed Pickles* (1927); it was continued on all Leo's books after that, the Jerry Todd being *Jerry Todd, Pirate* in 1928. Prior to that, the books did not have the doodad." Reprint editions added the small illustrations to the dust jackets of all the earlier titles.

Although I retired in 2020 from the University of Mary Washington, I still conduct the occasional class. On January 20, I discussed the life, works, and influence of Horatio Alger with an upper-level economics class ("Poverty, Affluence, and Equality"). Thanks to the generosity of Scott Chase, the students all had their own Alger books to read and review. I was impressed with one young man's copy of *Mark Mason's Victory*, shown here, with all the pages marked! The students seemed to enjoy the class, and I will write more about it in a future **Newsboy** article.

Sincerely, Jack Bales (PF-258) 422 Greenbrier Court Fredericksburg, VA 22401 jbales@umw. edu

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 2022:

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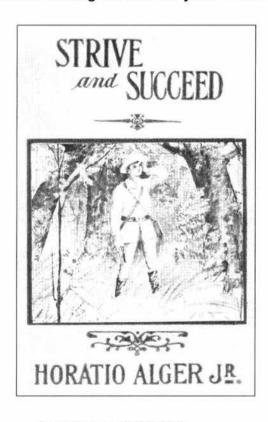
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