



## Mark Twain Circular

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l. to r.: Thomas Tenney, Shelley Fishkin, Judith Lee, Robert Hirst, Alan Gribben, David Sloane

### Just a Few Words . . .

Dear Fellow Twainians,

I'd like to begin an irregular column to pass on news and to ask for suggestions about the life and conduct of the Mark Twain Circle. We have not been a closed or formal-style group; indeed, a big part of our vitality has been created by the informal, inclusive, open-minded give and take of our membership.

Of course, our shared interest in Mark Twain probably has a shaping influence upon us. Just for the sake of comparison, I'd hazard a guess that the Twain meetings are more fun than, say, the convention of the Franz

Kafka Association!

And we have been fortunate to have the devoted help, guidance, and energy of earlier Board members and Officers. A grateful tip of the hat to them, especially David Sloane!

When I was installed at the American Literature Association meeting in San Diego, it was a pleasure to look around at some of the people we can draw upon. Please begin to think about how you can volunteer some of your expertise for the Circle.

If you have not attended an ALA conference, please try the next one. These meetings provide a chance for lively professional conversations. Even those who have "sworn off" other conventions have enjoyed the ALA.

Modern Language Association meetings: In addition to the exciting Twain Circle programs at the December 27-30 conference, the Mark Twain Circle will sponsor breakfast and pre-dinner hour meetings in the Twain room. These gatherings can offer the stimulation of small group discussions between knowledgeable folks. Please join us for a wide variety of MLA discoveries!

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** Please send me your suggested essay/paper presentation for the December 1995 MLA convention.

**CALL FOR IDEAS / FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The Twain Circle has decided to develop an outreach program for high-school teachers and students. Victoria Thorpe Miller will be heading up this initia-

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tive. She can be reached through the English Department at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI 53234-3922. People with a special interest in N.E. Missouri please contact Chet Davis (tel 313-962-4790).

This is a very exciting time to be a Twainian! I'd like to close with a portion of the remarks given by Professor Judith Yaross Lee at the ceremony--on a riverboat--when David Sloane and the MT Circle awarded special recognition to Dr. Robert Hirst.

I am delighted to speak for what and how much the Mark Twain Project has meant to me. When in 1973, at the beginning of my graduate study at the University of Chicago, I became interested in Tom Sawyer in the sequels, Hamlin Hill suggested that I look at Mark Twain's Hannibal, Huck and Tom, a volume edited by Walter Blair from the Papers a few years earlier. I knew as soon as I opened the book that I had found part of my life's work, not just the subject for a master's project. Twenty years later, teaching in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in human communication at Ohio University, I see in my students the same excitement and awe when we study the Letters as an outstanding example of historiography. The editorial work on Letters II and III, in particular, exemplifies historical documentation at its best; the details in the footnotes open up the richness and texture of nineteenth-century American life. So I am grateful for the opportunity to give this award to Bob Hirst tonight, since it allows me to discharge my personal debt to the Mark Twain Project as both a scholar and a teacher.

Over the last twenty-some years, Bob has participated in most of the productions of the Mark Twain Project, the ten volumes published in the two series (the Works of Mark Twain and the Mark Twain Papers) of the Anderson years (1967-79) and the fifteen titles produced under his own editorial direction. Eight of these have been scholarly editions of the Mark Twain Project--Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Tom Sawyer Abroad, and Tom Sawyer, Detective (1980), Early Tales and Sketches, II (1981), Letters, I (1988), Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1988), Letters, II (1990), Letters, III (1992), Roughing It [rev. ed.] (1993)--and seven volumes belong to the Mark Twain Library series of critical editions for general readers.

When any of us do research on Mark Twain using any of the thirty-five volumes thus far produced by the Mark Twain Project, we have masterful assistance from a master collaborator: Bob Hirst. And so it is with great pleasure that I present to Robert Hirst and the Mark Twain Project, on behalf of the Mark Twain Circle of America, this Distinguished Achievement Award.

Victor Doyno (SUNY, Buffalo)  
President, Mark Twain Circle

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### Circle Directory

The following is a list of members of the Mark Twain Circle of America as of November 1994. Honorary (Lifetime) members are indicated separately at the end of the list. If any part of your listing is incorrect, please contact me so that I can correct it. Some entries also include electronic mail addresses. If you would like to have your e-mail address added to your listing, send it to me. My various addresses (e-mail, fax, etc.) and my office phone number are indicated on the back page of this and every Circular.

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**Correction**

The review of the CD-ROM *Twain's World* in the July-September *Mark Twain Circular* erroneously listed Michael B. Frank, of the Mark Twain Project, as a member of the Editorial Board for *Twain's World*. Our apologies for the misinformation.

--J.S.L.

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**Dates to Circle**

**December 8-11, 1994.** ALA Symposium on "American Humor," Cancún, Mexico. Co-sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association and the Mark Twain Circle. Conference Director: David E.E. Sloane, English Dept., University of New Haven, West Haven, CT 06516.

**December 27-30, 1994.** Modern Language Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, including Mark Twain Circle sessions, cocktail hour sessions, and breakfasts with Mark Twain. See the July-September issue of the *Circular* for details.

**May 26-28, 1995.** ALA Conference on American Literature, Baltimore, MD. Conference Director: Gloria Cronin, English Dept., Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602; fax number: (801) 373-4661; internet: cronin@jkhbhr.c.byu.edu.

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**ABOUT THE CIRCULAR.** The *Mark Twain Circular* was launched in January 1987 by Thomas A. Tenney (Editor of the *Mark Twain Journal*), who edited the first issue, then passed the *Circular* baton to the present editor. An individual who pays dues to the Mark Twain Circle and/or subscribes to the *Mark Twain Journal* receives one subscription (four issues per year) to the *Circular*.

**ABOUT THE CIRCLE.** The Mark Twain Circle of America was formed at an organizational meeting held at the December 1986 Modern Language Association convention in New York; the membership has since grown to approximately 400. Current officers are: President—Victor Doyno; Vice President—Michael J. Kiskis; Executive Director—Laura Skandera-Trombley; Executive Committee—David E. E. Sloane, Susan K. Harris, and Jennifer Rafferty. Past Presidents: Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covici, Jr., David E. E. Sloane. Past Executive Directors: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, Michael J. Kiskis. Although many members are academic specialists, the Circle also includes many non-academic Twain enthusiasts. The Circle is in communication with other Mark Twain organizations, including those associated with sites important in his life, and cooperates with them.

**ABOUT THE JOURNAL.** Founded in 1936 by Cyril Clemens, the *Mark Twain Journal* is the oldest American magazine devoted to a single author. In 1982 Mr. Clemens retired, and the *Journal* moved to its present home in Charleston, S.C., under the editorship of Thomas A. Tenney. There are two issues per year, Spring and Fall, with a new volume each year (rather than every second year, as in the past). The *Journal* tends to appear late, and begs your patient indulgence. New subscribers may wish to begin with the 1992 issues (to be mailed in summer 1994) rather than the 1994. Although the Mark Twain Circle and the *Mark Twain Journal* are separate entities, Circle members enjoy a reduced subscription rate for the *Journal* (see coupon below for prices). Most back issues from 13:1 to the present are available at \$5.00 each, postpaid (\$2.50 on orders for ten or more; pre-1983 issues are thinner than modern ones, and some are badly reprinted). An index 1936-83 counts as a back issue.

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| <p>To: Prof. Laura Skandera-Trombley<br/>         Exec. Director, Mark Twain Circle<br/>         SUNY, Potsdam<br/>         Potsdam, NY 13676</p> <p>Please enroll me as a member of the MARK TWAIN CIRCLE OF AMERICA and subscriber to the MARK TWAIN CIRCULAR. I enclose a check for \$10.00 (\$11.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to "Mark Twain Circle of America."</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(printed name)</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(address)</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(city, state, zip code)</p> | <p>To: Mark Twain Journal<br/>         Box 1834<br/>         Charleston, SC 29402</p> <p>Please enter my subscription to the <i>Mark Twain Journal</i> for the year(s) circled: 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member of the Mark Twain Circle. Subscription rates are \$15 for one year, \$28 for two years, \$43 for three years, or \$50 for four years.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the Mark Twain Circle, or about to join. Subscription rates are \$10 for one year, \$18 for two years, \$25 for three years, or \$30 for four years.</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(printed name)</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(address)</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(city, state, zip code)</p> <p>Libraries: \$18.00/year, no discount<br/>         Foreign: Add \$2.00/year for postage</p> |
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