



# Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America  
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## Memorial to Stanley Brodwin

Stanley Brodwin, Mark Twain scholar and professor emeritus at Hofstra University, lost his third battle with cancer on Tuesday, October 10, 1995 at 11:30 p.m. He fought courageously to the end and passed away in his New York City apartment under hospice care. A committed teacher and promoter of Mark Twain to the end, he reached out from his bed and vigorously pumped the hand of a startled but pleased physician who had casually mentioned that he himself had been reading several of Twain's works; this was fewer than twelve hours before Stan's death, and days after he had ceased to be able to speak or eat in the extremity of his illness.

The final letters he wrote to one member of the Mark Twain Circle demonstrated his resilient, constructive qualities of character: "Right now I feel exhausted," he conceded, "and can barely get around. I'll be in the hospital 3 days—should be home on Thursday—the treatment will then be repeated twice more, I believe. God knows what I'll be like after all this. God, I'm so emotionally washed out. . . . But somehow the love and caring I have received these bitter

years have given me the strength and the drive to go on. I deeply appreciate the statement Vic Doyno wrote for the newsletter. It's important to know that the hours, weeks, and years I spent (while teaching 4 courses) on Twain, above all else (I've just re-read *Tom Sawyer* for the umpteenth time) have had some impact in the field. I received a nice card from Joe McCullough and a *very* touching and amusing letter from Tom Tenney. . . . I was so happy." Stan added that "the President and Provost of Hofstra did something very unusual—they came to see me at the new apartment and we indulged in some nostalgia for the good ole days when Hofstra was a small, virtually unknown suburban college. The school's growth, however, has been phenomenal over the last two decades. . . . Finally, they told me *The University* voted me a Phi Beta Kappa!! . . . Dear friends, God bless you all, Love, Stan Brodwin."

Stan Brodwin never got the opportunity to enjoy his recent retirement or accomplish the research, writing, and travel he had planned. In his last weeks he was sketching out a projected study of Mark Twain and Cervantes. Still, he published an

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article on "Mark Twain's Religion" in the *Cambridge Companion to Mark Twain*, ed. Forrest Robinson (1995) and completed another essay on "The Poetry of Scientific Thinking: Steinbeck's *Log from the Sea of Cortez* and Scientific Travel Narrative" for the forthcoming *Steinbeck and the Environment* (University of Alabama Press, 1996). His scintillating lecture on "Mark Twain in the Pulpit" at the Centenary Conference for *Huckleberry Finn* at the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1985—a dramatic, masterful presentation about Twain's intellectual life and implicit theology—riveted a large crowd and resulted in numerous invitations for him to address scholarly meetings. He was a founding member of the Mark Twain Circle of America and joined its Executive Committee in 1987.

Although during his lifetime Stan was only able to publish a dozen articles about Twain, it was proof of their quality and impact that half of them were subsequently reprinted or anthologized in various volumes. Among his most often-cited publications are "The Humor of the Absurd: Mark Twain's Adamic Diaries" (1972), "Mark Twain's Masks of Satan: The Final Phase" (1973), "Blackness and the Adamic Myth in Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*," "The Theology of Mark Twain: Banished Adam and the Bible" (1976), "The Useful and the Useless River: *Life on the Mississippi* Revisited" (1976), and "Wandering Between Two Worlds: Theological Realism in Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee*" (1983). He also published essays on Melville, Emerson, Boswell, Sholem Asch, Thomas Mann, W. E. B. Du Bois, and other figures. In addition to producing his own studies, Stan was a great friend to younger scholars, who will find that his absence came far too soon.

Stanley Brodwin was born on March 31, 1930. He received a diploma from Stuyvesant High School in New York City in 1948, then served as a certified X-Ray

Technician in the U. S. Navy Medical Corps until 1952, when he was awarded a Good Conduct Medal upon his Honorable Discharge at the rank of Petty Officer, 3rd Class. Following a summer program in Spanish literature at Barcelona University in Spain in 1954 and a Hebrew Ulpan at Kibbutz Maayan Zvi in Israel, he then took a B.A. degree at King's College, Durham University in England in 1956, followed by a master's degree from New York University (1962) and a doctorate from Columbia University (1967). Gradually he became a recognized biblical scholar and a fellow of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1972 he received the Distinguished Teaching Award at Hofstra University, and in 1981 he was the recipient of the Countee Cullen Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Teaching of Afro-American Literature. Between 1968 and 1974 he served as chairman of the American Studies Program at Hofstra, and between 1993 and 1995 he directed the graduate program for the M.A. in English Literature at Hofstra.

During services at the Morris Funeral Home in Hempstead on October 13th, Professor John Bryant of Hofstra University read the tribute to Stanley Brodwin written by Mark Twain Circle President Victor Doyno that appeared in the May-June 1995 issue of the *Mark Twain Circular*. Stanley's widow, Dr. Ruth Prigozy (a Hofstra University English professor who shared Stan's life for over twenty years), reports that President Doyno's assurance that Stanley Brodwin's labors had indeed made a difference to many of us helped him through his ordeal. Stanley adored his two daughters, two stepchildren, and granddaughter; was devoted to Ruth Prigozy and her F. Scott Fitzgerald studies; loved his own field of study; and relished the company of his fellow Mark Twain scholars. He left these many pleasures with the deepest reluctance, but with a final blessing upon those of us who remain to carry on his hearty spirit

of goodwill and thoughtful scholarship. His family and his school have established The Hofstra University Stanley Brodwin Memorial Book Fund in his memory. Donations may be sent to the Hofstra University Development Office, 101 Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11550.

Alan Gribben  
Auburn University at Montgomery

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### Have You Heard?

A member of the Mark Twain Circle has received a fine honor. Nancy Parker teaches at the South Carroll High School in Sykesville, Maryland. On October 27, 1995 she was awarded the title of "Maryland's English Teacher of the Year." Congratulations and all good wishes!

Your Mark Twain Circle wishes to thank the Mark Twain Foundation for another annual grant which will help with expenses.

To encourage future generations of scholars. . . . Your board has decided to signal our openness to younger scholars by establishing a modest travel grant to be given each year to help with the travel expenses of a graduate student who gives a paper at one of the conferences.

The recent SAMLA session on "Mark Twain as Letter Writer" sounds quite valuable. The increased attention to the *Letters* will benefit scholarship in the immediate and long-term future. The SAMLA division of the Mark Twain Circle, founded by Joseph Alvarez (Central Piedmont Community College) in 1994, continues to thrive, as evidenced by the reported attendance of 33 Twainians at this year's session.

Anyone who wishes to arrange to have Mark Twain sessions at the Rocky Mountain MLA or other regional meetings, please

contact me. I am still open to hear of people wishing to help organize the Cancún American Literature Association Twain sessions.

The editorial work on *Roughing It* will be honored at the Chicago MLA ceremony. The volume has been chosen for the 1992-94 MLA Prize for a Scholarly Edition. The prize definition specifies that the award be given to a "distinguished scholarly edition in the field of language or literature." The prize is awarded in odd-numbered years. Congratulations to the Mark Twain Project staff!

The National Council of Teachers of English has a sub-set called The Assembly on American Literature. You can request a copy of the newsletter, called *This Is Just To Say*, by writing to Robert L. Hamm, P.O. Box 1305, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

Unusual topic. . . . (Maybe I'm out of line on this. . . . If so, sorry.) Two currents of thought are converging on me lately, and they are provocative. In May of 1996 I will be completing the commitment/responsibility of this Presidency; it seems natural to think about the future—the long-range future—of the organization—and the long-range health of Twain studies. Simultaneously I've begun to think about the financial troubles of many institutions that I care about: my university, our local good music station, the local "culturals." Metaphorically, it looks like a long, tough, mean winter. . . . Any year-end donations that you may make to the Mark Twain Project will be matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Moreover, you'll feel that you were pretty smart on April 15, 1996.

Two related topics (this is new material to me because my parental family never had reason to think about or discuss this): Apparently, our national tax codes permit us to donate things like stocks or books that have increased in value—and we get to tax-deduct the increased value, without paying any tax on the increase. There are probably complex reasons for this policy, but I think

that it could certainly benefit Twain studies. And a final thought. . . . Probably each person thinks about what will out-last his or her own heart-beats. Now, at 58 years young, with young ones launched, I've decided that it is time to try to do something to help assure that future scholars, critics, and readers will have dependable Twain texts. I hope that many other folks will make similar decisions. Please call Bob Hirst at (510) 642-6480.

There will be an open Board meeting at the Chicago MLA. Please feel warmly invited to attend. I look forward to the stimulating conversations of Twainians at the conference. Meanwhile, happy holidays, seasonal renewal, and enjoyable readings to all!

Cordially,  
Victor A. Doyno  
(716) 634-9221  
SUNY at Buffalo  
306 Clemens Hall  
[Yes! The same one!]  
Buffalo, NY 14260

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## MLA Sessions

### Dear Colleagues:

Twainians are busy! Here is a useful but not guaranteed schedule of what should be happening at MLA that will likely be of special interest to our members. It promises to be a typically stimulating convention.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 27:

##### **3:30-4:45 p.m.; Columbian, Hyatt Regency.**

"American Humor Pop-Top-(ics): Harriet Beecher Stowe, Negro Menckens, and Click and Clack as American Discourse."

**Presiding:** Cheri Louise Ross (Penn State, Harrisburg)

##### **Presentations:**

1. "'She had not precisely the air of a man': Stowe's American Humor," Karen L. Kilcup (U of Hull, England)
2. "Radio in Reverse: Click and Clack's *Car Talk*," Judith Y. Lee (Ohio U)

**Respondents:** Bryan Bott (U of Colorado, Boulder) and Robin Bott (U of Colorado, Boulder)

##### **6:00 p.m.; Mark Twain Suite**

Cocktail Hour Talk: Andrew Jay Hoffman (Providence, RI), "The War Between Twain and Webster"

**The Mark Twain Suite will be in the Hyatt Regency, registered under Doyno and Tenney.**

#### Thursday, Dec. 28:

##### **8:15-9:00 a.m.; Mark Twain Suite**

Breakfast Talk: Jerry Thomason, "Mark Twain's Drama 'Colonel Sellers'"

##### **10:15-11:30 a.m.; Columbian, Hyatt Regency.**

"Humor and Gender: The Social Context"

**Presiding:** Cameron Nickels (James Madison U)

##### **Presentations:**

1. "Re-membering the Body: Breast Humor in the Age of Breast Cancer," Cynthia Ryan (Purdue U, West Lafayette)
2. "Insidious Humor and the Construction of Masculinity," Peter Murphy (Empire State C)
3. "Sexual Humor and Credibility," Lynn Sykes (Purdue U, Calumet)

**Respondent:** Nancy Walker (Vanderbilt U)

##### **6:00; Mark Twain Suite**

Cocktail Hour Talk: Gregg Camfield (U of Pennsylvania), "*Huck and the Arabian Nights: The Fine Art of Moral Burlesque*"

#### Friday, Dec. 29

##### **8:15-9:00 a.m.; Mark Twain Suite**

Breakfast Talk: Thomas Wilmeth (Concordia U, Wisconsin), "Maybe we've both got the bulge somehow": Conversational Confusion in Twain's Narrative Structures"

##### **3:30-4:45 p.m.; Columbus Hall A, Hyatt Regency**

"Twain's World: Finance and Politics"

**Presiding:** Vic Doyno (SUNY, Buffalo).

##### **Presentations:**

1. "Cashing in on a Bull Market: Twain's Use of Financial Terms," Joseph Towson (Robert Thomas Securities, Spartanburg, SC) and Debbie Lynn Lopez (U of Texas, San Antonio)
2. "Re-membering the Nation, Remembering the Past: Emancipation Anxieties, Lincoln's Proclamation, and *Huckleberry Finn*," George Uba (California State U, Northridge)
3. "Entrepreneurial and Communal Values in *A Connecticut Yankee*," Jill Benton (Pitzer C)

**[Tentative: Business Meeting and Surprise]**

#### Saturday, Dec. 30

#### **12:00 noon-1:15 p.m.; Columbus Hall B, Hyatt**

##### **Regency**

"Mark Twain and Religion"

**Presiding:** Joseph McCullough (U of Nevada, Las Vegas).

1. "*The Innocents Abroad*: Twain's Quest for the Historical Jesus," Anthony Berret, S. J. (Saint Joseph's U)
2. "Mark Twain as Anticreator: Identity and Christian Typology in *Pudd'nhead*," Edward A. Shannon (North Carolina State U)
3. "Religious Satire to Tragedy: Evolution of Theme in 'Mysterious Stranger' Manuscripts," Joseph Csicsila (U of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Victor A. Doyno  
President, MT Circle

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## Calls for Papers

**1996 SAMLA.** The Mark Twain Circle's SAMLA division will sponsor a session at the '96 SAMLA convention at Savannah, GA in early November 1996. The topic will be "The *New Huckleberry Finn*: Inclusions and Exclusions." Likely areas of focus would be such new discoveries as the cadaver episode (published in the *New Yorker* in June 1995) or the camp meeting episode (to be published in the forthcoming Random House edition, due in March 1996), such old controversies as the raftsmen's episode, or commentaries on other text (or illustrations) Twain chose to use or not to use in the published version of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Send proposals to Jim Leonard (English Dept., The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409) by May 1, 1996.

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#### **1996 MLA.**

**Mark Twain Circle.** Please send your paper proposal to Vic Doyno (English Dept., SUNY-Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14214) by Feb. 15, 1996. Open call for papers. The Mark Twain Circle will probably have a social event

at both this conference and the ALA. The MLA conference features a Twain Circle Suite, where we meet and often have breakfast and/or cocktail-hour presentations with a great deal of conversational response.

#### **American Humor Studies Association.**

1. "Twentieth-Century Humor in the Twenty-first Century: What Will Last and Why?" Alleen Pace Nilsen, Arizona State U, Box 870302, Tempe, AZ 85287-0302. Open call. Deadline: Jan. 15, 1996. E-mail: IADAPN@ASUACAD.BITNET.
2. Open Topics on American Humor. David E. E. Sloane, Univ. of New Haven, 300 Orange Ave., West Haven, CT 06516. Open call for papers on any American Humor Studies topic. Deadline: Jan. 15, 1996.

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**1996 Cancún.** A conference on the topic of Romanticism is planned for late 1996 at Cancún, Mexico, under the auspices of the American Literature Association. Circle members are invited to propose Twain-related sessions or papers appropriate to that topic. Contact Vic Doyno.

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## Dates to Circle

**Dec. 27-30, 1995.** Modern Language Association Annual Convention (Chicago), featuring Mark Twain Circle conference sessions, breakfast sessions, and cocktail hour sessions. See "MLA Sessions" (above) for details.

**May 1996.** American Literature Association Annual Conference; San Diego.

**November 1996.** Annual SAMLA Conference in Savannah, GA. The Mark Twain Circle will sponsor a session titled "The *New Huckleberry Finn*: Inclusions and Exclusions." See "Calls for Papers" (above).





**LIBRARIANS:** Please note in your computer that the *Mark Twain Circular* provides publication information on the *Mark Twain Journal*. This may help reduce avoidable claims.

**FULFILLMENT NOTICE:** Both 1992 issues (30:1 and 30:2) and the Spring 1993 issue (31:1) of the *Mark Twain Journal* were mailed to subscribers in early September 1994. We hope to mail the Fall 1993 issue (31:2) and possibly the Spring 1994 issue (32:1) soon; we ask libraries not to claim these before January 1996. We're doing our best to catch up!

**SERIAL LIBRARIANS:** The *Mark Twain Circular* is entered selectively in the annual bibliographies of the Modern Language Association and the Modern Humanities Research Association, and in the *American Humanities Index*, the *Literary Criticism Register*, *American Literary Scholarship*, and "A Checklist of Scholarship on Southern Literature," which appears annually in the *Mississippi Quarterly* (Spring issues).

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