



Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

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Mark Twain at ALA

The 16th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association will be held at the Westin Copley Place (10 Huntington Avenue) in Boston MA, May 26-29, 2005. The Mark Twain Circle will sponsor the following sessions:

Session 1-I. *Resources for Mark Twain Scholarship*

Time. Thursday, May 26, 8:30-9:50 a.m.

Chair. Lawrence I. Berkove, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Presentations:

1. "What is Made Possible by the *Huck Finn* CD," Victor Doyno, SUNY Buffalo
2. "What Non-University Library Archives May Hold for Twain Scholarship," William H. Loos, Retired Curator of the Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
3. "Encouraging Scholarship in Twain Biography," Thomas A. Tenney, Editor, *Mark Twain Journal*

Session 4-G. *Mark Twain's Short Fiction*

Time. Thursday, May 26, 1:00 –2:20 p.m.

Chair. John Bird, Winthrop University

Presentations:

1. "The Eloquent Silence at the Center of 'Hellfire Hotchkiss,'" Linda A. Morris, University of California, Davis

2. "Language, Realism, and Technology in Mark Twain's Satire of Sentimental Fiction," John H. Davis, Chowan College
3. "Circles within Circles: A Unifying Element in 'The Second Advent,'" Norman Stafford, Arkansas State University

In addition, there will be a paper titled "Twain's Whittier Birthday Speech and Howells," presented by Jerome Loving (Texas A & M University) in the "Howells and Others" session (17-G), on Saturday, May 28, 9:30-10:50 a.m. The Mark Twain Circle business meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2005, 4:00-5:20 p.m.

W. Carey McWilliams

Gretchen Sharlow

It saddens me deeply to report the death of my friend, W. Carey McWilliams, who died of a heart attack on March 29, 2005, at his home in Flemington, New Jersey. He was 71. Dr. McWilliams was a professor in the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick, and at the University's Institute for the Study of Civic Values, which he helped found in 1973.

Carey McWilliams was a Mark Twain scholar and a valued friend of the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies. Over the years, he par-

participated in many Center programs. He was one of the leaders in the 1988 National Endowment for the Humanities Teachers' Institute on "Mark Twain, Individualism and Commitment in American Life." He led a session at the Center's first Mark Twain Conference in 1989 entitled "Twain's Connecticut Yankee, The Prince and the Public." In 1994, he conducted a four-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for Teachers at Quarry Farm on "Mark Twain's Political Thought." At the 1997 conference, he chaired the panel on "Mark Twain and Politics." He also participated numerous times in the Center's lecture series, *The Trouble Begins at Eight*. Most recently, he was working with the Center staff on a publication for the Quarry Farm Papers series.

Ein Abend mit Mark Twain

(An Evening with Mark Twain)

Albert Locher
Zollikofen (Switzerland)

When Mark Twain tramped through Europe, he climbed the Rigi Mountain in Central Switzerland in August 1878. He tells about his adventures in chapters 28 and 29 of "A Tramp Abroad," adding, of course, a few details to make the story more amusing. This was 125 years ago. I felt the event should be celebrated, and I decided to lecture about it.

Nineteen years after the Rigi climb, Mark Twain spent ten weeks in Weggis, which is not far from Lucerne and was a small village then. This is but vaguely remembered nowadays, and therefore I wanted to tell about it as well.

Of course I didn't want just to repeat what's already in his books, but to add biographical data and to read from some of his unknown work. I had hundreds of interesting

details to choose from and to select what might interest the audience. I planned two Mark Twain evenings, one in Lucerne, the other in Weggis. Finally, the program was born, and here is what was offered to the public:

An Evening with Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens)

- Mark Twain, a famous American author:
 - A brief biography
 - Mark Twain's Rigi ascent (1878)
 - Mark Twain in Weggis (1897)
- Stories by Mark Twain:
 - *The Lucerne Girl*
 - *Playing Courier*
 - *The Five Boons of Life*
 - *Aphorisms*. and *Rubaiyat*

In Lucerne, a guest lecturer talked about how and why Rigi Mountain became famous. In Weggis, a second one informed about the history of Weggis and its visitors. Mark Twain's books were for sale; pictures of Mark Twain and various spots of the region were shown and refreshments offered. Besides, I talked about an extensive biography that I began several years ago which describes all his sojourns and travels in continental Europe, beginning with the *Quaker City* excursion of 1867 and ending with Olivia's death in Florence in 1904. First, I planned simply an itinerary of about 30 pages; finally, it became a biography of 400 pages.

The first evening (on 3 September) was in a bookseller's reading room in Lucerne, the second (19 September) in a fine hotel in Weggis. Both events were advertised in newspapers, and bills were sent to hotels and tourist offices. I had 35 guests in Lucerne and 40 in Weggis. This shows that Mark Twain is certainly not forgotten and still attracts an audience, for I was told that the average is about 25 listeners.

Notes:

- I published a short account of Mark Twain's Weggis stay in 1994. An English translation, titled "This is Paradise, here," is published in the Fall

The State of Mark Twain Studies Conference

The Center for Mark Twain Studies is pleased to announce the electronic posting of the tentative conference schedule for Elmira 2005: The Fifth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies, to be held at Elmira College, August 4-6, 2005.

To view the schedule, go to www.elmira.edu. From Quick Links, scroll down to Mark Twain Connection. Select Tentative Conference Schedule (in PDF format). A printable version of the Conference Application is also available.

Come to Elmira in early August to explore the current State of Mark Twain Studies in a wide variety of panels and seminars designed to advance scholarship and pedagogy in the field. More than fifty papers will be read in plenary and concurrent panels.

Also enjoy hearing the keynote speaker for the conference, Ron Powers, winner of the Pulitzer Prize (1973), Chicago Emmy (1976), and National Emmy (1985), as he recounts his recent adventures in Mark Twain biography:

“Of All Else, I Have Avoided Thee: On Finally Ending 30-Odd Years on the Literary Lam and Facing Up to the Biography That A Transparent Person with Wings Instructed Me to Write Shortly After I Was Born in Hannibal, Missouri.”

Advance copies of Mr. Powers' biography, *Mark Twain: A Life*, will be available for purchase and signing.

Barbara E. Snedecor, Director
Center for Mark Twain Studies

2003 issue of the *Mark Twain Journal*.

- My biography is not yet published, but there is no hurry. What I write about happened 100 and more years ago, so a few more don't matter. I prefer a careful edition to a hastily published one.
- “The Lucerne Girl” is in chapter 25 of *A Tramp Abroad*.
- “Playing Courier” was published in the New York *Sun* in January 1892.
- “The Five Boons of Life” was first printed in *Harper's Weekly* in 1902 and is reprinted in *What Is Man? And Other Philosophical Writings* (vol. 19 of The Works of Mark Twain, published 1973).
- *Mark Twain's Rubaiyat* was edited by Alan Gribben and published by Jenkins Publishing Company in 1983.
- “The Five Boons of Life” and the *Rubaiyat* are virtually unknown and I translated them

into German—a difficult but very interesting task.

Current Mark Twain Bibliography

James S. Leonard
The Citadel

Current Mark Twain Bibliography is a means of giving notice of what's new in Mark Twain scholarship. Where annotations are used, they are in most cases descriptive blurbs provided by publishers (or in some cases, by authors) with value judgments edited out. If you have recently published something that you would

like to have included in *Current Mark Twain Bibliography*, send it to me by e-mail (leonardj@citadel.edu), or by other means.

Books

Hurm, Gerd. *Rewriting the Vernacular Mark Twain: The Aesthetics and Politics of Orality in Samuel Clemens's Fictions.* Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2003. \$29.50. ISBN 3-88476-577-9.

Krauth, Leland. *Mark Twain & Company: Six Literary Relations.* University of Georgia Press, 2003. Cloth. \$34.95. In this comparison of Mark Twain with six of his literary contemporaries, Leland Krauth looks anew at the writer's multifaceted creativity. Twain, a highly lettered man immersed in the literary culture of his time, viewed himself as working within a community of writers. He likened himself to a guild member whose work was the crafted product of a common trade—and sometimes made with borrowed materials. Yet there have been few studies of Twain in relation to his fellow guild members. In *Mark Twain & Company*, Krauth examines some creative “sparks and smolderings” ignited by Twain's contact with certain writers, all of whom were published, read, and criticized on both sides of the Atlantic: the Americans Bret Harte, William Dean Howells, and Harriet Beecher Stowe and the British writers Matthew Arnold, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Rudyard Kipling. Each chapter explores the nature of Twain's personal relationship with a writer as well as the literary themes and modes they shared. Krauth looks at the sentimentality of Harte and Twain and its influence on their protest fiction; the humor and social criticism of Twain and Howells; the use of the Gothic by Twain and Stowe to explore racial issues; the role of Victorian Sage assumed by Arnold and Twain to critique civilization; the exploitation of adventure fiction by Twain and Stevenson to reveal conceptions of masculinity; and the use of the picaresque in Kipling and Twain to support or subvert imperialism. *Mark Twain & Company* casts new light on

some of the most enduring writers in English. At the same time it refreshes the debate over the transatlantic nature of Victorianism with new insights about nineteenth-century morality, conventionality, race, corporeality, imperialism, manhood, and individual identity.

Kirk, Connie Ann. *Mark Twain: A Biography.* Greenwood Press. 140 pages. Laminated hardcover. ISBN 0-313-33025-5. \$29.95. Aimed at high school students and general readers. Supplemental materials include a chronology, Clemens family tree, selected quotations, and listings of important places and holdings in Mark Twain studies.

Leon, Philip. *Nanny Wood: From Washington Belle to Portland's Grande Dame.* Heritage Books, 2003. Paper. 282 pages. ISBN: 0-7884-2440-8. Includes accounts of Twain's contacts with Mrs. Wood and her husband, Charles Erskine Scott Wood, at West Point in 1881-82. \$29.00.

Meltzer, Milton. *Mark Twain Himself: A Pictorial Biography.* University of Missouri Press, 2002. 320 pages. \$39.95. Mark Twain's life—one of the richest and raciest America has known—is portrayed in this mosaic of words and more than 600 pictures that capture the career of one of America's most colorful personalities. The words are Twain's own, taken from his writings—not only the autobiography but also his letters, notebooks, newspaper reporting, sketches, travel pieces, and fiction. The illustrations provide the perfect counterpoint to Twain's text. Presented in the hundreds of photos, prints, drawings, cartoons, and paintings is Twain himself, from the apprentice in his printer's cap to the dying world-famous figure finishing his last voyage in a wheelchair. [Text from dust jacket.]

Railton, Stephen. *Mark Twain: A Short Introduction.* Blackwell, 2003. 144 pages. Paper. \$19.95. This book introduces Mark Twain through close readings of seven major works, including *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *Connecticut Yankee*, and *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.

Railton investigates the tension between the real-life person, Samuel Clemens, and the fictional person, Mark Twain, provides a reading of Twain's obsession with performance and popularity, and analyzes the significance of Twain's books for American culture and identity. Illustrated with images from first editions of Twain's works. A short appendix directs readers to the author's excellent website on "Mark Twain in his Times."

Rasmussen, R. Kent. *Mark Twain for Kids: His Life and Times, 21 Activities.* Chicago Review Press. 160 pages. \$14.95. ISBN 1-55652-527-3. The book's comprehensive biographical information explores Mark Twain as a multi-talented man of his times, from his childhood in the rough-and-tumble West of Missouri to his many careers—steamboat pilot, printer, miner, inventor, world traveler, businessman, lecturer, newspaper reporter, and most important, author—and how these experiences influenced his writing. Twain-inspired activities include making printer's type, building a model paddlewheel boat, unmasking a hoax, inventing new words, cooking cornpone, planning a newspaper, observing people, and writing maxims. An extensive resource section offers information on Twain's classics, such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, as well as a listing of recommended web sites to explore.

Twain, Mark. *Mark Twain's Helpful Hints for Good Living: A Handbook for the Damned Human Race.* Edited by Lin Salamo, Victor Fischer, and Michael B. Frank. University of California Press, 2004. 256 pages. 36 black and white photographs. ISBN 0-520-24245-9. \$19.95. This handbook—an eccentric etiquette guide for the human race—contains sixty-nine aphorisms, anecdotes, whimsical suggestions, maxims, and cautionary tales from Mark Twain's private and published writings. It dispenses advice and reflections on family life and public manners; opinions on topics such as dress, health, food, and childrearing and safety; and more specialized tips, such as those for dealing with annoying salesmen and burglars. Culled

from Twain's personal letters, autobiographical writings, speeches, novels, and sketches, these pieces are bursting with Twain's characteristic ebullience for life. They also remind us exactly how Mark Twain came to be the most distinctive and well-known American literary voice in the world. These texts, some of them new or out of print for decades, have been selected and prepared by the editors at the Mark Twain Project

Twain, Mark. *The Portable Mark Twain.* Edited by Tom Quirk. Penguin, 2004. Paper. 589 pages. ISBN 0-14-243775-1. \$17.00. Replaces the 1946 edition of Bernard DeVoto.

Twain, Mark. *Tales of Wonder.* Edited with an Introduction by David Ketterer. Bison Books, 2003. 419 pages. Paper. ISBN 0803294522. \$19.95. Mark Twain's unsettling imagination and passionate curiosity roamed far and wide—racing across microscopic worlds and interstellar voids, leaping ahead to fearful futures, and speculating on dazzling inventions to come. *Tales of Wonder* features some of the most notable but little-known science fiction available, penned by the famed American humorist and writer. With characteristic wit and acuity, Twain embarks on an epic journey into a drop of water, catches a glimpse of an invisible man, reveals a generation-starship-type world in the heart of a drifting iceberg, and imagines futuristic devices of instantaneous communication such as the "phrenophone" and "telelectroscope." Twain pioneered the use of time travel to the past in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. As for the future, he envisioned a radical utopia of absolute suffrage and future histories in which a global theocracy holds sway or a monarchy rules America. This entertaining and absorbing collection of tales reminds us that the former steamboat pilot dreamed about the stars, anticipated and dreaded the future, and above all was continually surprised and enchanted by the world around him. [Text from dust jacket.]

Wolfson, Nicholas. *Huckleberry Finn: Antidote to Hate*. Xlibris, 2003. Huck, Jim and Tom are American immortals. They resonate in the popular culture and, at the same time, provoke the continual concern and interest of intellectuals in the academic community. When the book was first published, and for years thereafter, many critics complained about the baleful influence the delinquent Huck, with his use of bad language, and skepticism about religion, would have on good God-fearing American White boys. They did not sufficiently focus on the issue of race raised by the book. In recent decades many scholars and educators have severely criticized the book as a bigoted tract that portrays a subservient Jim and repetitively uses racist language. This book answers those more recent concerns. It demonstrates the toughness and humanity of Jim. Professor Wolfson points out how Jim educates Huck and treats him with love. He sets forth the ways in which Jim's fundamental humanity awakens Huck to the degradation of his surroundings and leads him to the famous chapter where Huck resolves to go to Hell rather than betray Jim.

Ziff, Larzer. *Mark Twain*. Oxford University Press, 2004. Cloth. 126 pages. ISBN 0195170199. Mark Twain emerges in this book as something of a paradox. His humor made him rich and famous, but he was unhappy with the role of humorist. He satirized the rapacious economic practices of his society, yet was caught up in those very practices himself. He was a literary genius who revolutionized the national literature, yet was unable to resist whatever quirky notion or joke crossed his mind, often straying from his plot or contradicting his theme. Ziff offers a lively account of Twain's early years, explores all his major fiction, and concludes with a consideration of his craftsmanship and his strength as a cultural critic. He offers particularly telling insight into Twain's travel writings, providing for example an insightful account of *Following the Equator*, perhaps Twain's most underrated work. Throughout the book, Ziff exam-

ines Twain's writings in light of the literary cultures of his day—from frontier humorists to Matthew Arnold—and of parallel literary works of his time—comparing, for example, *A Connecticut Yankee* with major utopian works of the same decade. Thus the book is a work both of literary criticism and of cultural history.

Articles

Blount, Roy, Jr. "Mark Twain's Skeleton Novelle." *The Atlantic Monthly* 288.1 (July-August 2001): 49-51.

Blount, Roy, Jr. "Mark Twain's Reconstruction: "A Murder, A Mystery, and a Marriage" and Its Moment in History." *The Atlantic Monthly* 288.1 (July-August 2001): 69-81.

Budd, Louis J. "Mark Twain and the Sense of Racism." *Prospects: An Annual of American Culture Studies*. 25 (2000): 151-58.

Oggel, L. Terry. "Speaking Out about Race: 'The United States of Lyncherdom' Clemens Really Wrote." *Prospects: An Annual of American Culture Studies*. 25 (2000): 115-38.

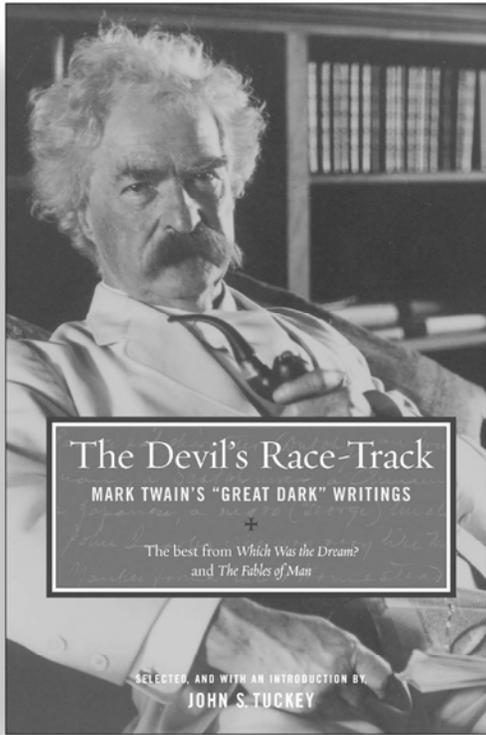
Silva, Reinaldo Francisco. "Mark Twain and the 'Slow, Poor, Shiftless, Sleepy, and Lazy' Azoreans in *The Innocents Abroad*." *The Journal of American Culture* 26.1 (2003): 17-23.

Reigstad, Tom. "The House of Twain: 472 Delaware." *Western New York Heritage* 7.2 (Summer 2004): 18-29. An account, with photographs, of Twain's residence in Buffalo (1870-71).

Twain, Mark. "A Murder, A Mystery, and a Marriage." *The Atlantic Monthly* 288.1 (July-August 2001): 54-64.

Audio CDs

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ABOUT THE CIRCLE. The Mark Twain Circle of America was formed at an organizational meeting held at the 1986 Modern Language Association convention in New York. Although many members are academic specialists, the Circle also includes many non-academic Twain enthusiasts.

ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The *Mark Twain Circular* is the newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America. It is published twice per year (April and November) and is mailed, by the editor, to all members of the Mark Twain Circle. The *Circular* prints news of Mark Twain events and scholarship, directories of members, and current bibliography. Subscribers are distributed among 44 states and 14 foreign countries.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL. The Mark Twain Circle also publishes an annual volume titled *The Mark Twain Annual*, edited by John Bird (Winthrop University), featuring criticism and pedagogy related to Mark Twain and his works.

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