

Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 30

November 2016

Number 2

President's Column

Kerry Driscoll
University of Saint Joseph



“Eschew Surplusage.” That’s my favorite dictum about writing in “Fenimore Cooper’s Literary Offenses.” It’s a marvel of economy and precision, a two word “two-fer” that simultaneously upbraids verbosity and inflated, pretentious diction. For many years, I thought “surplusage” was a word of Twain’s own invention, but eventually learned that—quite to the

contrary—in the field of jurisprudence it refers to a statement irrelevant to the “cause of action” (and therefore technically useless) in a court case. Talk about the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

In this spirit, my remarks will be brief. Please mark your calendars—2017 is nearly upon us, as is the 8th International State of Mark Twain Studies conference, which will be held in Elmira 3-6 August 2017. The theme of this quadrennial

meeting is “The Assault of Laughter”; the full “Call for Papers” can be found inside this issue of the *Circular*. I encourage you to submit a proposal for presentation, and hope to see many of you next summer in Elmira for three days of intellectually stimulating conversation and camaraderie.

Inside This Issue

Twain Talk:

Horst Kruse

Fall Feature:

Ronald Jenn and
Linda Morris

Mark Twain Circle:

Annual Minutes
Member Renewal

Calls for Papers:

ALA 2017
Elmira 2017
MLA 2018

Recent Publications

Twain Talk

An Interview with Horst Kruse



(Photo Credit: Hannes Kiefner)

What's your earliest memory of reading Twain?

My first encounter with Mark Twain occurred in Germany, in June of 1941, when I was twelve years old. My school had been temporarily evacuated from the city of Kiel, an important naval base and a frequent target of bombings, to a seaside resort on the Baltic. Extra-curricular activities were largely taken care of by Nazi officials in uniform. I distinctly remember one of them reading to us selected passages from Tom Sawyer---the name of whose protagonist, along with the names of Huck Finn and Jim, Stowe's Uncle Tom, Cooper's Natty Bumppo, as well as the heroes of Gerstaecker's The River Pirates of the Mississippi and Karl May's adventure novels, was current among young people in Germany

all through the war, even if their stories were not always fully known. In retrospect, the circumstance of my first encounter with Mark Twain appears highly ironic, for---as I learned much later---Mark Twain's name was to be found on at least one Nazi list of banned books (with a note to the effect that though Mark Twain himself may not be Jewish, his writings appear to be so).

Where and when did you first encounter Twain in the classroom?

Having subsequently read much of Mark Twain, and eventually become a member of what is now known as the "First Class of Fulbrighters" for a year of graduate study at Cornell University in 1953/54, my first academic encounter with the author occurred in a seminar on research problems in American literature. It was taught by Robert H. Elias, and among my fellow students to share the excitement of a challenging class there was Chloe Wofford, later to be famous as Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. The assignment I chose was for a December 1953 presentation on Mark Twain with an emphasis on Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, entailing what I felt was an enormous amount of reading, giving me both an overview of the development of Mark Twain scholarship and criticism as well as an awareness of current research problems. This proved an excellent foundation for further work---one that I could readily fall back on when in 1962/63, for instance, on a second extended visit to the United States, I sat in on a class taught by Charles Boewe at the University of Pennsylvania. The experience was one to reminisce about when, decades later, Charles Boewe with his wife Mary and I myself became regular visitors to

the Elmira Mark Twain conferences.

What was your dissertation topic and who directed your dissertation?

*My dissertation, submitted at Kiel University in 1959, was on F. Scott Fitzgerald, its topic having grown out of that for a master's thesis suggested by Arthur Mizener, the first Fitzgerald biographer, whose repute had brought me to Cornell. But for the second thesis required for a university teaching career in Germany, the so-called Habilitation, it was Mark Twain again. A year's work, on an ACLS Ford Foundation fellowship, at the Mark Twain Papers in Berkeley, with extensive travel to depositories of Mark Twain materials all over the states (for note-taking by pencil in those pre-Xerox days of laborious scholarly work), derailed what was to have been a study of medievalism in nineteenth-century American writers into a much-needed study of the writing and the sources of *Life on the Mississippi*. When I left Berkeley the end of 1964 I was able to place a typewritten copy of "Mark's Twain's *Life on the Mississippi: The Making of a 'Standard Work'*" on the shelf there for reference purposes. A German version, to satisfy degree requirements, was published in 1970, while an updated English version, through the kind offices of Everett Emerson and Henry Nash Smith, saw its publication as *Mark Twain and "Life on the Mississippi"* by the University of Massachusetts Press in 1982.*

What do you consider your most important contribution to Twain studies?

*The answer to this question is more or less implicit in the preceding one. Mark Twain and "Life on the Mississippi" with its reconstruction of the protracted course of composition and the large scope of its disparate sources has helped to dispel the notion of Mark Twain's Mississippi book as a hastily compiled work large enough to meet the demands of the subscription market. *Life on the Mississippi* did in fact become the kind of "standard work" that the*

author had intended it to be from the start, a first reference to the project dating from 1866. One can now stop being dismissive about it and begin to appreciate it in its richness, the original "Old Times on the Mississippi" section of 1875 as well as the rest of the chapters as published in 1883.

*In my own personal valuation, however, it is my attempt to resolve the business of Mark Twain's nom de plume that comes first and that I am proudest of. Discrepancies between certain details of Mark Twain's own account of how he came to adopt his pen name and verifiable fact had long puzzled Twain scholars. When in my study of the manuscript of *Life on the Mississippi* I saw that the author himself had become aware of some of these discrepancies and then failed in his attempt to conceal them, I found that the time had come for a review of all the evidence. My extended search, in libraries and archives during various trips all along the Mississippi as well as in Berkeley and major depositories throughout the US, for the elusive "Mark Twain" signature that Samuel Clemens believed to have been used by Captain Isaiah Sellers and that he himself believed to have appropriated upon the latter's death, did not come up with the item itself. But what I did find was evidence why Mark Twain should have believed in the mistaken conjunction of Sellers's death and his own first use of his nom de plume. The possibility, thus, that his had been merely a trumped-up story intended to serve as a cover-up to counter the opprobrious so-called bar-room version of the origin of his pen name, is much diminished. Bob Hirst's supposition that when Mark Twain maintains that something happened, and happened in a particular way, it probably did, was of great help, and so was the advice he provided throughout my search and in the evaluation of my findings. Thinking of my account as detective story, just as the search itself had been a most intricate story of detection, I failed to take the advice of Tom Tenney---who cooperated in producing a richly illustrated version for the *Mark Twain Journal*--to start out with a brief summary of my*

findings. And so some new insights lie buried in much factual detail, easily bypassed or dismissed---alas.

What's your best story about a Twain scholar from an earlier generation?

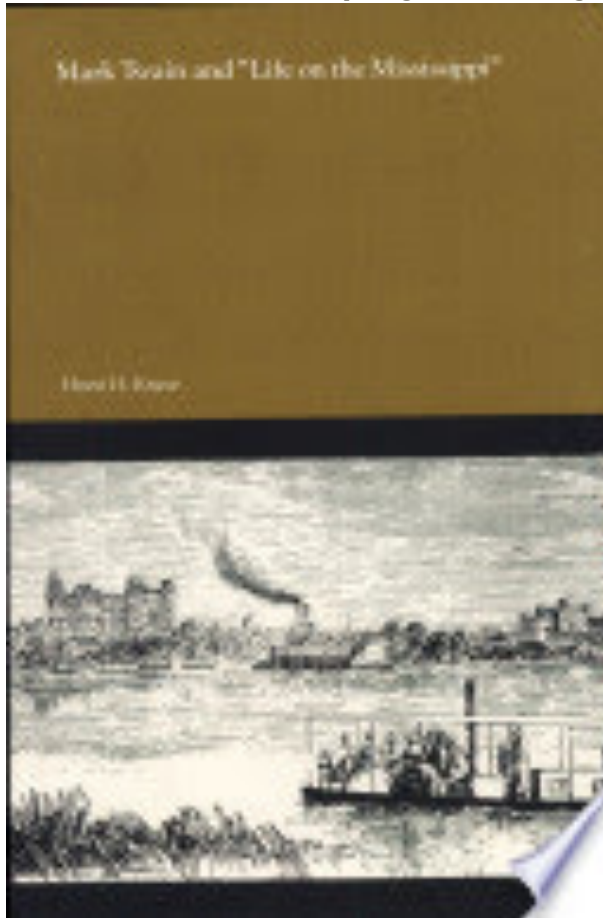
My research and my field trips have put me in touch with not a few Mark Twain scholars and caretakers "from an earlier generation." There were those who came to the Mark Twain Papers in Room 113 of the General Library on the Berkeley campus in 1963/64---a one-room sanctum where visiting scholars would discuss their projects with either Henry Nash Smith or Fred Anderson within earshot of all that were present---and listening. And this would often lead to happy meals and much discussion afterward, with notables from Walter Blair and Edgar M. Branch to Albert E. Stone and John S. Tuckey. And there were those whom I met on my subsequent visits to Berkeley, after the Papers had moved to larger quarters in Room 475 of the Bancroft Library and Bob Hirst had taken over as host and guide. ---

A good story might have developed about [---name withheld---] when on 25 July 1964 I had made my way up to Quarry Farm in Elmira where I was positive that I would find a library, or at least the remains of one, with certain books that I had determined Mark

Twain had made use of during his summers up at the farm. But I was told that there was nothing there and turned away at the gate, a large dog (or two?) keeping watch over the property, protecting the books with all their marginalia and saving them for more fortunate scholars to discover and write about at a later date. ---

*To answer your question, I will single out (with apologies to colleagues and friends who figured in similar roles) the story of my encounter with Howard Baetzhold, with whom I shared an abiding interest in genetic studies as well as in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. I had read his 1961 *American Literature* article, "The Course of Composition of *A Connecticut Yankee: A Reinterpretation*," and envied him the chance of working with the actual manuscript as an important key to the understanding of Mark Twain's novel. His study proved a veritable inspiration for my own work with the book and with *Life on the Mississippi*. In Berkeley*

*he and his wife Nancy were well remembered as an ideal research team (a cooperation that my wife Ursula and I tried to emulate, spending much time sitting side by side behind all types of microfilm readers). Howard and I started corresponding and exchanging information, and sending each other bits and pieces of interest for our projects, and in 1990 I was able to publish, in the same journal, what could pass for a companion piece to his article, concentrating on the circumstances of publication of *A Connecticut Yankee* rather*



than those of its writing. We had long since met in person at the Elmira conferences when, in the early 1990s, he began to be seriously interested in his family history and his German roots. He even hired a professional genealogist to help him along, but then gave me a chance to verify and implement what they had found. And so one day, a few years after Germany's reunification, I took a trip out to the small drab-looking town in the former GDR from where, in the 19th century, the Baetzholds had emigrated. I took photos of the remains of its old castle and other sights, and I also talked to the local clergyman, asking for copies of birth certificates and other records. But I found the man totally uncooperative and apparently resentful of America and the West, possibly afraid that claims might be made. I left some money to bribe him into action, but he never delivered, leaving Howard and me to share our disappointment---and having me realize how fortunate I myself had been (and have been since) in being given liberal and practically unlimited access to source materials and records throughout my research in the United States. The expertise I had gained in dealing with genealogical records in both America and Europe proved very helpful soon afterwards in my research on the writing and the sources of *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald being the other author who served me well in coming to understand America and teaching American literature.

Have your impressions of Twain and his work changed at all over the years?

Not really, except to realize more and more that in its richness Mark Twain's work is eminently teachable and useful in various types of courses and many different contexts. Not only does he provide a wide range of different texts to choose from for various purposes, many works in themselves also readily respond to

ever new approaches. What is true for teaching certainly holds for scholarly and critical studies as well, much of such endeavor being helped along by the solid work of the Mark Twain Project in Berkeley

What's your best advice for someone just starting in the field?

Get an edition---any edition that you can afford---of the author's complete works, or all that's included in the Library of America, for instance, and start reading. Make few compromises as you go along. Soon you will be able to hold your own when it comes to discussing Mark Twain. And as you read, don't wait for laughs so much as for enlightenment. If you are in New York City, go to the Pierpont Morgan Library, ask for the manuscript of *Life on the Mississippi*, disbound since 2010, finally liberated from the bondage of a tight binding imposed on it by Pierpont Morgan as its collector, and waiting to give you the thrill of a hands-on experience of an authentic article by Mr. Mark Twain. If you are on the West Coast, make an appointment to visit the Mark Twain Papers in The Bancroft Library, Room 475, on the Berkeley campus and ask the staff to show you a few items. It will prove a truly baptismal experience.

Horst H. Kruse is Professor emeritus of English and American Literature and former Head of American Studies at the University of Muenster in Germany. An Honorary Member of both the Mark Twain Circle of America and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, he is a recipient of the Henry Nash Smith Award (in Recognition of Lasting Contributions to Mark Twain Studies and the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies) (2009). His latest book is *F. Scott Fitzgerald at Work: The Making of "The Great Gatsby"* (2014).

Fall Feature

Ronald Jenn and Linda Morris at Work

Searching for *Joan of Arc*

Ronald Jenn, of Lille University, France, and Linda Morris, of the University of California, Davis, received a grant from the France-Berkeley Fund to collaborate on a project focusing on Twain's *Joan of Arc*. The project is entitled "The French Marginalia of Mark Twain's *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* (1895-96) at Berkeley: Patriotism without Borders." In the terms of the grant we are particularly interested in the marginal comments and markings Twain wrote in four French histories of *Joan of Arc* still extant and housed in the Mark Twain Papers. But because there are also three extant comparable sources in English with multiple comments of Twain, we have expanded the scope of our initial investigation to include all the available sources Twain identified and consulted in preparation for writing *Joan of Arc*.

The France-Berkeley Fund is an especially apt foundation to support this research because of its fundamental mission: "to promote scholarly exchange in all disciplines between UC Berkeley (and UC Davis), and all research centers and public institutions of higher education in France." It was established in 1993 as a partnership between the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and the University of California at Berkeley.

The first phase of the research, now completed, required us to make extensive notes about Twain's marginal comments and highlights in seven original historical texts. In addition to preparing an article for publication about our findings, we will make a presentation at Rouen, France, in May, calling a French audience's attention to Twain's extended homage to one of France's greatest heroines. Assisted by Victor Fischer of the Mark Twain Papers, we will prepare

a series of photos and texts for the Rouen presentation that are intended to illuminate Twain's writing process, his research, his family's involvement in his writing, and select illustrations from his original serial publication in Harper's.

Finally, in August of 2017, along with senior researcher Paula Harrington (Colby College), we will present a workshop/panel on *Joan of Arc*, at the Mark Twain conference in Elmira, New York. Two junior French scholars have already been identified to participate in the panel, and a junior American scholar will be invited to give a paper as well.

Additional financial support for the project has come from the University of California, Davis, Lille University, the Memorial Jeanne d' Arc, Rouen, and the Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira.



Ronald Jenn is the author of *La Pseudo-translation de Cervantes a Mark Twain*, and co-author with Paula Harrington of *Mark Twain and France: The Making of a New American Identity* (forthcoming from the University of Missouri Press); Linda Morris is the author of *Gender Play in Mark Twain: Cross-Dressing and Transgression*, also published by the University of Missouri Press.

Mark Twain Circle

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting

ALA Annual Conference
San Francisco, California
May 24, 2016

Presiding: John Bird

Members Present: Jim Caron, Joe Csicsila, Kerry Driscoll, Dennis Eddings, Howard Horwitz, Larry Howe, Joe Lemak, Jan McIntyre-Strasburg, Linda Morris, Chad Rohman, Ann Ryan, David Sloane, Harry Wonham.

John shared the Executive Coordinator's financial report in Sharon McCoy's absence:

Total balance (in combined PayPal and bank accounts): **\$10,963.33**

More monies will come in once 2016 membership renewals are received.

Renewal notices will be sent out shortly.

Membership Numbers: Total **176**

National: **159**

International **17**

He then addressed an issue Sharon raised in her report—the need for concrete strategies to increase membership, particularly among high school and middle school teachers as well as graduate students. Some discussion also took place regarding the surprising number of established Twain scholars are not MTC members, and several suggestions were made about reaching out to them in order to bolster membership.

Chad Rohman and Linda Morris, the Circle's Nominating Committee, then made their report, proposing the following roster of nominees:

- At large position on Executive Committee—Jim Caron
- Replacement for Sharon as Executive Coordinator—Jarrod Rourke
- Vice President—Larry Howe

All three candidates were unanimously elected to these positions by voice vote.

John expressed sincere thanks to Sharon McCoy for all she has done in her role as Executive Coordinator, making special note of her implementation of the electronic payment option for membership renewals. The Circle will honor Sharon for her service at a future date that is convenient for her.

Joe Csicsila reported briefly on the *Circular*, which is being published electronically twice a year. Paper copies are no longer being printed and mailed out, which represents a savings of one thousand dollars per year. Those present congratulated Joe on the *Circular's* new look and features.

Joe also requested that if anyone has news items, photographs, or suggestions for stories to please send them along. He reminded everyone that the file size for photos needs to be under 10 megabytes to prevent problems opening up the *Circular*. An archive of past issues is available online after a six month waiting period as required by subscription services like Ebsco.

Joe Lemak, Barb Snedecor's successor as the Director of the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, introduced himself and was warmly welcomed by the group. He spoke briefly about the Center's plans to establish a more expansive online presence and digitize parts of the archives, and also announced an October Symposium on "Twain and Youth." Joe Csicsila will feature Joe Lemak in the fall issue of the *Circular*.

Chad Rohman, editor of the *Mark Twain Annual*, offered the following report:

The work of the journal's editorial board remains strong and efficient. Chad expressed his gratitude for the reviewers' consistently fair, generous, and thorough feedback. He also noted that Vic Doyno's name remains on the editorial board list, but has not been actively involved due to ill health. It was agreed to maintain his name on the list in recognition of his previous work on behalf of the Circle.

The journal's acceptance rate is relatively high—approximately 75% over the past three years (e.g., since PSU has been publishing it). When the *Annual* was first founded, the acceptance rate was in the range of 90%, so the process has become more selective. Strong submissions have been accepted for Volume 14—with a nice mix of veteran scholars and new voices—and several additional essays are either in the pipeline or out for revision.

The Editorial Manager site is easy to use and an invaluable repository of the journal's activity. The PSU editorial staff is very helpful—prompt and professional; as a result, the editorial process has been very smooth so far. PSU's production deadline of July 1 is

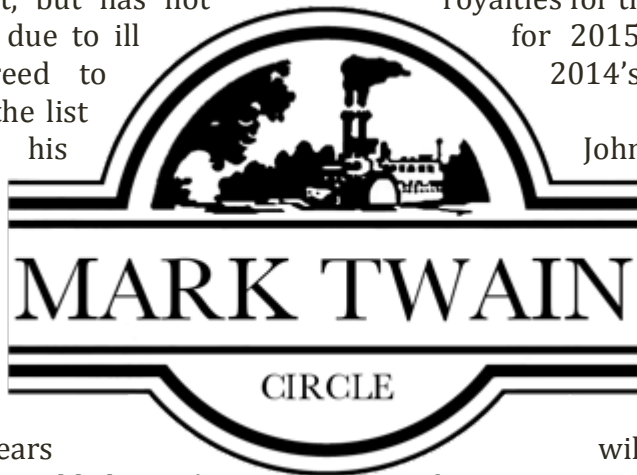
reasonable, assuring ample time for proof and production work to occur in the fall.

Diana Pesek, the PSU Journals Manager, the 2017 subscription rates for the *Annual* have increased modestly, 3% for individuals and 5% for institutions. Currently, the number of individual subscribers is 44 (print or online) and 62 (print and online); the number of institutional subscribers is 109 (print or online) and 152 (print and online).

Financial Details:

*Jim Leonard reports that the royalty checks for Gale total \$60.46 (revenue from previous five quarters)

* Sharon McCoy reports that the overall 2015 royalties for the *Annual* were \$2103.04 for 2015, a 50% increase over 2014's royalties of \$1382.66.



John thanked Chad for all his hard work as MTA editor, and reminded everyone that Chad is now three years into his five year term; at the 2017 business meeting, the Circle will actively begin looking

for a successor. One possibility raised was appointing an Associate Editor in 2017, who will become editor at the end of Chad's term.

John also discussed the Circle's web presence—the url for our webpage is www.marktwaincircle.org. He recommended subscribing when you visit the site so that you'll automatically receive notifications when new content is posted. The Circle also maintains a Facebook page; if you have news you'd like posted please send it to him. John agreed to continue posting material on both the webpage and Facebook.

Discussion then turned to the future of the quadrennial conference jointly sponsored by the American Humor Studies and the Twain Circle, next scheduled for 2018. Will this co-sponsorship continue, or will the Humor Studies take charge of it? The group's consensus was that maintaining this collaboration is optimal. Various other related issues were addressed, such as switching the conference date from December to early August, and changing the location from New Orleans to Austin TX, where Tracy Wuster is looking into inexpensive on-campus housing and the use of meeting rooms at the university for \$5 per day. Ideally, Tracy would like to see:

- Some concurrent sessions versus all plenaries
- Inclusion of other author societies
- Expansion of sessions focusing on media/film studies

A motion made to continue the co-sponsorship of the quadrennial conferences, which passed unanimously.

This topic led to a more general discussion about the proliferation of conferences dedicated to Twain Studies—Elmira every

four years, Hannibal every two. Is there sufficient interest to justify all these venues? Planning for 2017 Elmira conference, which will co-chaired by Kerry Driscoll and Ann Ryan, was also briefly discussed.

On behalf of Sharon McCoy, Linda Morris presented John Bird with a beautifully bound copy of the 1884 *Century* magazine in gratitude for his two years of service as Circle president. Linda praised John's energy and leadership in implementing new ideas such as the "Mark Twain Players" and noted: "Sharon has loved working with you!" The group also thanked John and his wife Seung for their generosity in organizing and covering some of the costs for the sumptuous Chinese banquet held the previous evening at the R and G Lounge.

Kerry Driscoll donned the crown Linda Morris wore as Queen Elizabeth I in the dramatic reading of "1601) and became president of the Circle.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Driscoll

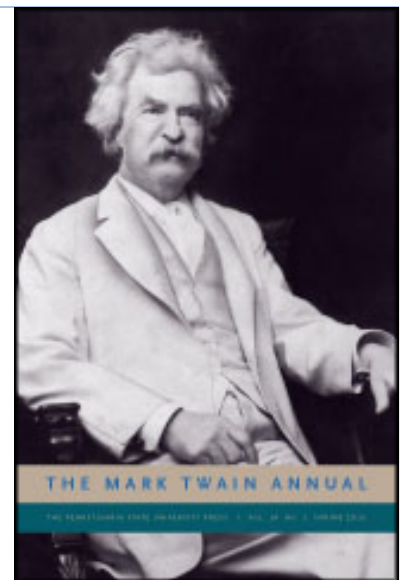
The Mark Twain Annual

The Journal of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Chad Rohman, Editor
Kerry Driscoll, Book Review Editor

The Mark Twain Annual focuses on critical and pedagogical articles about Mark Twain's works. Founded in 2003 by the Mark Twain Circle of America, this annual fall publication is sent to all members of the Mark Twain Circle and published by Penn State University.

For submission inquires and information about the journal please contact Chad Rohman at crohman@dom.edu.



Mark Twain Circle Calls for Papers

American Literature Association
Boston, MA: May 25-28, 2017

Session 1: “Mark Twain and Immigration”

Papers are invited examining Twain’s representation of national and cultural borders (as well as more abstract conceptual boundaries) and the various individuals crossing them—from Chinese immigrants in the Western U.S. and the Quaker City “pilgrims” in Palestine to the dynamic of ethnic imposture (Irish immigrants masquerading as “Indians” in “A Day at Niagara” and as Chinese in “John Chinaman in New York.”) Please send a 1 page abstract to Circle president Kerry Driscoll (kdriscoll@usj.edu) on or before 7 January 2017.

Session 2: Open Topic—New Directions in Mark Twain Studies

Papers are invited on any aspect of Twain’s work and legacy. Please send a 1 page abstract to Circle president Kerry Driscoll (kdriscoll@usj.edu) on or before 7 January 2017.

Modern Language Association
New York, NY: January 4-7, 2018

Session Topic: Mark Twain—in theory and practice

Papers are invited examining the advantages and limits of theory to interpret and reinterpret Twain’s work and life. This panel is open to

1. Approaches to particular texts or aspects of Twain’s career through any number of theoretical lenses, or
2. Critiques of theoretical methodologies as obstacles to productive scholarship.

Send one page abstracts to Larry Howe, lhowe@roosevelt.edu, by 1 March 2017.

CALL FOR PAPERS
8th International State of Mark Twain Studies Conference
“The Assault of Laughter”
Elmira College
Elmira, NY
3-6 August 2017

Established in 1989, the Elmira College “International State of Mark Twain Studies” conference is the oldest and largest academic gathering devoted to all things Twain. The 8th quadrennial conference, centered around the theme, “The Assault of Laughter,” will take place 3-6 August 2017. We invite papers on any aspect of Mark Twain’s work and legacy, but have a particular interest in the topics listed below:

MT and Satire
MT: Insult and Invective
MT and Politics—Then and Now
MT as Cultural Icon: Use and Abuse
MT and Home
MT and the Art of Irreverence
MT and Gender
MT: Friends and Enemies
MT and Talk
MT and Grief
MT, Correspondent: Public and Private
MT and Immigration
MT and Violence
MT and Vernacular
MT and Public Discourse
MT and The Seduction of Laughter
MT and Political (In) Correctness
MT Visions and Revisions
MT and His Demons
MT and the Quaker City Cruise
MT and Economics
“Twain’s End”: Reassessments
MT and Education
MT in Theory
The State of MT Biography
MT and Realism
The complete *Autobiography*

Developed abstracts (700 words) should be sent as an electronic attachment to twaincenter@elmira.edu by Monday 6 February 2017. Include a cover letter containing your contact information (name, mailing address, etc.) in the body of the email. Final papers must be suitable for 20-minute presentation. Proposals will be reviewed anonymously by members of the conference planning committee.

Renew Your Membership in the Mark Twain Circle of America for 2017!

And if you haven't yet renewed for 2015, you can use this form, too.

\$30 Individual (US and International)

\$15 Graduate Students and K-12 Educators

\$75 Three-year Individual

Membership helps support the educational and social activities of the Circle, including scholarly panels at academic conferences such as MLA and ALA. It also includes our newsletter, *The Mark Twain Circular*, which will keep you connected to all things Twain, and the *Mark Twain Annual*, published by Pennsylvania State UP, beginning fall 2013. Previous issues will be available to members through JSTOR.

Send queries regarding the *Mark Twain Annual* to:

Chad Rohman, Editor
The Mark Twain Annual
Department of English
Dominican University
River Forest, IL 60305
crohman@dom.edu

For *Annual* submission information or to submit a manuscript,
visit the *Annual's* Editorial Manager website: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/mta/>

Memberships now payable online via PayPal (credit, debit, or PayPal account)

<http://marktwaincircle.org/join-the-mark-twain-circle-of-america-2/join-or-renew-electronically/>

Or, send your check—payable to the Mark Twain Circle of America—to

Jarrold Roark, Executive Coordinator
Mark Twain Circle of America
3725 Thompson Circle
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Academic Affiliation (if any) _____

Questions? Jarrod Roark can be reached at jarrodroark@gmail.com

Mark Twain Bibliography

Recent Publications

Mark Twain Annual (2016)

Chad Rohman, "Editor's Re: Marks"

A Tribute to Victor Fischer

Kerry Driscoll, "Introduction"

Victor Fischer, "Remarks at the Mark Twain Circle Banquet"

Critical Essays

Benjamin Griffin, "Mark Twain's Apocrypha: Infant Jesus and Young Satan"

Lawrence Howe, "Language and Property in *Connecticut Yankee*, or What's the Use of Usufruct?"

Kara A. Johnson, "'Two stories at the same time': Silent Narratives of Enslavement in *Pudd'nhead Wilson*"

Bill Scalia, "*The Mysterious Stranger*: A Religious Allegory for a Post-Christian Age"

Susan Lyn Eastman, "Mark Twain's 'The War Prayer' in Film and Social Media"

Michael David MacBride, "The Quixotic Dream of Mark Twain's Jim"

John H. Davis, "Who Wears the Pants? Sexual Masquerade and Sexual Meaning in 'An Awful Terrible ... Medieval Romance'"

Alex Beringer, "Humbug History: The Politics of Puffery in *Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy*"

Hamada Kassam, "'Tom Sawyer Said He Was 'a Stranger from Hicksville, Ohio, and His Name Was William Thompson'"

John Bird, "'And Then Think of Me!': *Huckleberry Finn* and Cognitive Dissonance"

Book Preview

Steve Courtney, "Mark Twain and the Minister"

Book Reviews

John Bird, *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 3: The Complete and Authoritative Edition* by Benjamin Griffin, Harriet Elinor Smith

Matt Seybold, *Sitting in Darkness: Mark Twain's Asia and Comparative Racialization* by Hsuan L. Hsu.

Susan K. Harris, *Mark Twain in China* by Selina Lai-Henderson

***Mark Twain Journal* (Fall 2016)**

This current issue honors **KEVIN MAC DONNELL**, a truly extraordinary figure in Mark Twain studies. There has never been someone like Mac Donnell in our field of scholarship—or, for that matter, probably in any area of American literature. He wears four hats—all Texas-size—as collector, bookseller, scholar, and Travis county activist. Diligence and aptitude enabled him eventually to dominate the collecting world where Mark Twain was concerned, and he is continually adding to his vast holdings of first editions, association copies, manuscripts, and ephemera. MAC DONNELL and R. Kent Rasmussen recently co-chaired a Quarry Farm Symposium, "Mark Twain and Youth."

Our lead article by **MARK NIEMEYER** analyzes *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a book that redefined our national identity after the Civil War. The phrase "Reassurance of Fratricide" in Niemeyer's title derives from Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (2006).

A Teacher of the Year award winner, **HUGH H. DAVIS**, recounts how he decided to experiment with teaching an edition of *Huckleberry Finn* that omits the n-word in his high school class in Winton, North Carolina. Davis traces his experiences with Twain's novel during a teaching career that has included rural public and metropolitan private schools.

Veteran teacher **JOHN R. PASCAL**, winner of the Salvatore N. Caprio Award, persuaded his administrators to allow him to instruct a year-long course in Mark Twain at Seton Hall Preparatory School in New Jersey. Pascal kept a detailed record of his students' growth in their writing skills and their appreciation of Twain. They were treated to visits to the Mark Twain House and Museum and a performance by the eminent Twain impersonator Hal Holbrook.

Independent historian **DEBORAH A. LEE** looks more deeply into the backgrounds of Mary Ann Cord and John T. Lewis, two African Americans whom Twain came to know well at Quarry Farm in Elmira, New York. Lee connects the dots of these relationships that helped Twain portray African Americans more knowledgeably and sympathetically.

MICHAEL H. MARLEAU, a student of Twain's Mississippi River years, speculates that Twain was the "SAM" who contributed a letter about low water river conditions to a Missouri newspaper. Marleau explains the difficulties that steamboats had in 1860 when the water levels were the lowest in memory.

Brief mentions include **ROBERT STEWART**'s what-if note about Orion Clemens's preference for a consular post in Germany instead of being assigned to the Nevada Territory. The editor and managing editor of the *Mark Twain Journal* visited the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, our editorial address, to meet the new director, archivist, and professor of American Literature and Mark Twain Studies. We found that they bring impressive energy and acumen to their offices. They were in the midst of preparing for the October 7th and 8th "Mark Twain and Youth" symposium.

BARBARA SCHMIDT's latest update for her memorial roster notifies us of the passing of scholars who enlarged our understanding of Twain's works. Previous memorial rosters

appeared in Volume 49 (2010) and Volume 51 (2013). Four books receive notices in the “Books Received” section.

This eightieth anniversary issue of the *Mark Twain Journal* adds a subtitle—*The Author and His Era*—to reflect the fact that from its beginning in 1936 this periodical has published many dozens of essays about Mark Twain’s contemporaries. Our new subtitle is intended to encourage the submission of even more studies of the men and women who knew Twain or who were prominent during his age.



Books:

Champlin, Tim *Mark Twain Speaking from the Grave: The Search for His Hidden Recordings* (High Hill Press, 2016)

Tim Champlin, the author of more than 38 western adventure novels, dedicates this "what if" story to well-known Mark Twain scholars Kevin Mac Donnell, Kent Rasmussen, and Patrick Ober—who, he hints, share some of the blame for it. Champlin has incorporated Mark Twain or his characters in several previous novels, including *Fire Bell in the Night* (2004) and *Tom Sawyer and the Ghosts of Summer* (2010). Still more Mark Twain spinoffs lie in Champlin's future, including a story about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in which a twenty-first century boy travels back to their time that will come out next year.

Mac Donnell, Kevin and R. Kent Rasmussen, eds., *Mark Twain and Youth: Studies in His Life and Writings* (Bloomsbury, 2016)

The distinguished contributors to *Mark Twain and Youth* make Twain even more accessible to modern readers by fully exploring youth themes in both his life and his extensive writings. The volume's twenty-six original essays offer new perspectives on such important subjects as Twain's boyhood; his relationships with his siblings and his own children; his attitudes toward aging, gender roles, and slavery; the marketing, reception, teaching, and adaptation of his works; and youth themes in his individual novels--*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, and *Joan of Arc*. The book also includes a revealing foreword by actor Hal Holbrook, who has performed longer as "Mark Twain" than Samuel Clemens himself did.

Schullery, Paul. *Diamond Jubilee: Sherlock Holmes, Mark Twain, and the Peril of the Empire* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016)

Paul Schullery is a novelist who does all the little things right. For an author who writes historical fiction, using small details correctly and in the right proportion is critical to creating a world where a reader can find a comfortable escape. What makes historical fiction even more fun to read (and sometimes a bit easier to write) is for the author to use characters already created and familiar to the reader. In this case, the characters are Sherlock Holmes and Mark Twain--one fictional, though he seems real, and the other real, though he seems almost mythical.

Zwonitzer, Mark. *The Statesman and the Storyteller: John Hay, Mark Twain, and the Rise of American Imperialism* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2016)

In a dual biography covering the last ten years of the lives of friends and contemporaries, writer Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) and statesman John Hay (who served as secretary of state under presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt), *The Statesman and the Storyteller* not only provides an intimate look into the daily lives of these men but also creates an elucidating portrait of the United States on the verge of emerging as a world power.



(Photo Credit: Kent Rasmussen)

Joseph Csicsila, Editor
Mark Twain Circular
English Department
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Email: jcsicsila@emich.edu
Phone: 734.487.4220

Mark Twain Circular

ISSN 1042-5357

Mark Twain Circle Officers
Executive Board

President:

Kerry Driscoll, University of
St. Joseph

Vice President:

Lawrence Howe, Roosevelt
University

Executive Coordinator:

Jarrod Roark, The Barstow
School

Executive Committee

John Bird (Past President),
Winthrop University

James Caron

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Chad Rohman, (Editor, *The Mark Twain
Annual*) Dominican University

Editor, *Mark Twain Circular*

Joseph Csicsila, Eastern Michigan
University

The *Mark Twain Circular* is the newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America.

The *Circular* is published at Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, Michigan) and is supported by the Mark Twain Circle of America.

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*, *Literary Criticism Register*, *American Literary Scholarship*, and "A Checklist of Scholarship on Southern Literature" (which appears annually in the spring issue of the *Mississippi Quarterly*).