



Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 16

January-March 2002

Number 1

Mark Twain at ALA

The 2002 Annual Conference of the American Literature Association will be held May 30 - June 2, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach (200 Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802). Scheduled Mark Twain appearances are as follows:

Mark Twain Circle Sessions:

Panel 1: Friday, May 31, 2:00-3:20 p.m.; Regency F

Title: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*: Pedagogy and Critical Editions

Chair: Laura Niesen de Abruna, Susquehanna University

Papers:

1. "Huck Finn among the Editors: The Curious History of Twain's Novel and American Literature Anthologies," Joseph Csicsila, Eastern Michigan University
2. "The Norton Critical Edition *Huckleberry Finn*, Edition 3.1," John Bird, Winthrop University
3. "A Report from Cyberspace: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* CD-ROM Project," Vic Doyno, SUNY Buffalo
4. "A Kaleidoscope of *Huckleberry Finn* Editions: Which One REALLY Shines Through?" Errol Craig Sull, Independent Scholar

Panel 2: Saturday, June 1, 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.; Regency C

Title: After Ken Burns, What Is Left To Say? Mark Twain Biography II

Chair: John Bird, Winthrop University

Papers:

1. "Whose (Who's) (Hoos) Mark Twain: The Biographer's Art, or Whistling Past the Graveyard," Michael Kiskis, Elmira College
2. "Ongoing Excavations: The Curious Tale of Mark Twain and the Connecticut Indian Association," Kerry Driscoll, St. Joseph College

Mark Twain in Other Sessions:

Paper: "The Parallel Tracks of Mark Twain and Ambrose Bierce," Lawrence I. Berkove, University of Michigan, Dearborn

Session: Ambrose Bierce panel; Thursday, May 30, 3:30-4:50 p.m.; Regency D

Paper: "Race in the Marrow: Racialism in Charles Chesnutt and Mark Twain," Shannon L. Cate, George Washington University

What's Inside?

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Session: Charles Chesnutt and the Questions of Racial Identity panel; Friday, May 31, 3:30-4:50 p.m.; Pacific Room

Mark Twain Circle Business Meeting: Saturday, June 1, 8:00-8:50 a.m.; Shoreline A.



Calls for Papers

Western Literature Association

Conference Title: Lands of Little Rain: Creative Oases in the Arid West

Dates: October 9-12, 2002

Location: The University of Arizona—Tucson, Arizona

Details: This land of little rain that generates much controversy over urban growth, cultural identity and contested borders is the perfect setting for a lively WLA conference. We invite participants to submit papers addressing the themes below or Western Literature in general. We particularly encourage papers that:

- Discuss the role of the Southwest in writing and thinking about the West. Is this the "most" western place because of its uncompromising land, its multi-cultural vitality and its complex, contested borders?
- Explore literature, film, and art that address the relationships that have evolved between the land and the peoples of the arid Southwest, especially in this time of rapid population growth.
- Celebrate and examine the myriad past and present voices that emerge from the desert. How are the dances between and among cultures enacted on these landscapes? What are the in-between

places for Southwestern peoples of multiple backgrounds?

- Focus on writers whose work has embraced this land of little rain such as Mary Austin, Edward Abbey, Rudolfo Anaya, Luci Tapahonso.
- Provide interdisciplinary meditations on the cultural geography of past and present borders, of immigration and border-crossings, of region.

Proposals for panels should include a brief abstract of each paper. Individual proposals for papers and presentations should be no more than one page in length and be submitted by June 15, 2002. Graduate students who wish to compete for the J. Golden Taylor prize must submit their full conference-length papers—limit 15 pages—by June 15.

Send all materials to:

Professor Judy Nolte Temple
Women's Studies Department
The University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210025

Tucson, AZ 85721-0025

Phone: (520) 621-7338

Fax: (520) 621-1533, ATTN: Temple

Email: WLA2002@email.arizona.edu

<http://www.coh.arizona.edu/english/WLA2002/>

Submissions Deadline: June 15, 2002

Thalia: Studies in Literary Humor

Submissions to be mailed in triplicate or sent by attached e-mail to:

Janice McIntire-Strasburg, Managing Editor
St. Louis University
3800 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

e-mail submissions: mcintire@slu.edu (Please note submission in the subject line of your e-mail.)

Thalia accepts submissions concerning:

- Academic essays in the study of literary hu-

mor

- Studies of humor in media, i.e. art, film, drama television, or Internet humor
- Creative humorous fiction, poetry or art/cartoon work
- Book reviews of new texts on humor and/or humorists.

Submissions for Volume 21 should be received by August 30, 2002.



Mark Twain on Stage

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art & Science and The Mark Twain Circle of New York recently announced that they would present “*Better Than It Sounds*”: *The Musical Mark Twain*, live on stage at the Great Hall, Cooper Union, 51 Astor Place (Cooper Square) on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 8:00 PM. The program was described as follows:

A unique program of “**Mark Twain’s own music**”—the actual songs and tunes the great humorist loved best (and a few that he loathed) during a lifetime that took him from Missouri and the western frontier in the mid-19th century to New York, New England, and the capitals of Europe in the glittering era that he himself christened “The Gilded Age.”

The singers are Ann Kirschner and Anthony Michalik. Michael Thomas accompanies on piano. Peter Salwen wrote and directed the program and provides the narration — mostly in Twain’s own words, using material drawn from his notebooks and correspondence as well as his better-known published writings.

The selections are as eclectic as Twain’s own varied life, ranging from pre-Civil War minstrel-show tunes to Broadway show tunes, songs from the 19th-century equiva-

lent of Tin Pan Alley, an 1840s Sunday-school hymn, spirituals, and several classical compositions by Handel, Beethoven and Richard Wagner—whose operas inspired the Twain comment that gives this program its title. The program also includes two numbers that have scarcely, if ever, been heard in public, with lyrics by Twain himself.

“*Better Than It Sounds*” is being presented for the first time in the Great Hall at The Cooper Union, 51 Astor Place (Cooper Square), on the same stage where Mark Twain himself made his first East Coast appearance as a platform entertainer in 1867. Admission is fifteen dollars at the door.



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 this list, send it to me by e-mail (leonardj@citadel.edu), or by other means.

Books

Aller, Susan Bivin. *Mark Twain: A & E Biography*. Lerner Publications, 2001. Softcover, 8.49 x 5.89. 112 pages. \$7.95. ISBN 0-8225-9696-2. [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* by Dave Thomson on Sept. 5, 2001.]

Bell, James E. *Mark Twain and 8100 Goggin*

Kin. Bell Books, Randy & Ellen Bell, P.O. Box 49, Rich Hill, MO 64779. (417) 395-2275. Map. Photos. 472 pages. \$30.00 + \$5.00 shipping (which includes insurance). To order, contact the author at 573-358-1640. [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on Sept. 1, 2001 by Mary Leah Christmas.]

Kete, Mary Louise. *Sentimental Collaborations: Mourning and Middle-Class Identity in Nineteenth-Century America*. Duke University Press, 1999. 304 pages. Bibliographical notes and index. Paperback. \$17.95. ISBN 0-8223-2471-7. Includes chapters titled "Invoking the Bonds of Affection: Tom Sawyer and America's Morning" and "Mourning America's Morning: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*." [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on Jan. 10, 2001 by Gregg Camfield.]

Kiskis, Michael J. *Samuel Clemens and Me: Class, Mothers, and the Trauma of Loss*. Quarry Farm Papers - No. 8. 2001. Paperback. 28 pp. ISBN 1055-1492. Kiskis's reader-response approach uses his own personal history as a point of comparison for understanding the role played by such factors as the relation of Sam Clemens to his mother, anxieties about class distinctions and expectations, and the after-effects of personal loss in the works produced by Clemens in his public guise as Mark Twain.

Messent, Peter. *The Short Works of Mark Twain: A Critical Study*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001. 280 pages. 6 x 9. Cloth. \$45.00. ISBN 0-8122-3622-X. Between 1867, when *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and Other Sketches* was published, and the appearance in 1906 of *The \$30,000 Bequest and Other Stories*, seven major collections of short works appeared under the name Mark Twain. It has long been held that in most cases Twain had little to do with assembling these books, viewing them mainly as moneymaking ventures and leaving the work largely to others.

In the first full and sustained study of the collections ever to appear, Peter Messent argues to the contrary. Exploring the publication history of the volumes as well as primary documents, Messent demonstrates that Twain's part in the making of these books was, in fact, considerable. Reading the collections of short works as well as individual tales alongside his novels, Messent discusses Twain's development as an artist in terms of the changing emphases that mark his use of different forms and themes, and the changing modes of humor that he employed. [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on Feb. 8, 2002 by Jason Horn.] [Text from dust jacket.]

Quirk, Tom. *Nothing Abstract: Investigations in the American Literary Imagination*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2001. 234 pages. Cloth, 6 x 9. \$34.95. ISBN 0-8262-1364-2. A collection of essays gathered over the past twenty years—all of which, in some fashion, have to do with a genetic approach to literary study. Quirk resists the direction taken by contemporary theory in favor of an approach to literature through source and influence study, the evolution of a writer's achievement, the establishment of biographical or other contexts, and the transition from one literary era to another. Includes chapters titled "What If Poe's Humorous Tales Were Funny? Poe's 'X-ing a Paragrab' and Twain's 'Journalism in Tennessee'" and "Mark Twain in His Short Works." [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on March 4, 2002 by William F. Hecker.] [Text from advertising copy.]

Skandera Trombley, Laura E., and Michael J. Kiskis (Editors). *Constructing Mark Twain: New Directions in Scholarship*. University of Missouri Press, 2001. Hardcover. 272 pages. \$34.95 ISBN: 0826213774. The thirteen essays in this collection combine to offer a complex and deeply nuanced picture of Samuel Clemens. With the purpose of straying from the usual notions of Clemens (most notably the Clemens/Twain split that has ruled Twain scholarship for over thirty years), the editors have assembled contributions from a wide range of

Mark Twain Sites

What's Past, and Passing, and to Come

Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies

2002 Spring Lecture Series — "The Trouble Begins at Eight"

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

"Horton Foote's 'The Shape of the River:' The Rediscovery of a Television Play about Mark Twain"—Mark Dawidziak (author; television critic at the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*)

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

"New Shelves in Mark Twain's Library"—Dr. Alan Gribben (Head of the Department of English and Philosophy, Auburn University at Montgomery)

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

"How I Came to Write *Mark Twain A to Z*"—Dr. R. Kent Rasmussen (author; Editor of Salem Press in Pasadena, CA)



Twain scholars. As a whole, the collection argues that it is time we approach Clemens not as a shadow behind the literary persona but as a complex and intricate creator of stories, a creator who is deeply embedded in the political events of his time and who used a mix of literary, social, and personal experience to fuel the movements of his pen. The essays illuminate Clemens's connections with people and events not usually given the spotlight and introduce us to Clemens as a man deeply embroiled in the process of making literary gold out of everyday experiences. From Clemens's wonderings on race and identity to his looking to family and domesticity as defining experiences, from musings on the language that Clemens used so effectively to consideration of the images and processes of composition, these essays challenge longheld notions of why Clemens was so successful and so influential a writer. While that search itself is not new, the varied ap-

proaches within this collection highlight markedly inventive ways of reading the life and work of Samuel Clemens. Essays by Michael J. Kiskis, Victor A. Doyno, J. D. Stahl, Jeffrey

Dates to Circle

- **May 30-June 2, 2002.** American Literature Association Annual Conference. Hyatt Regency Long Beach. Long Beach, CA.
- **October 9-12, 2002.** Western Literature Association Conference. Tucson, AZ.
- **November 15-17, 2002.** South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel. Baltimore, MD.
- **December 27-30, 2002.** Modern Language Association Annual conference. New York,

Steinbrink, Robert Sattelmeyer, Jennifer L. Zaccara, Henry B. Wonham, James S. Leonard, David L. Smith, Ann M. Ryan, Tom Quirk, John Bird, and Laura E. Skandera Trombley / Gary Scharnhorst. [Text drawn from dust jacket.]

young man named Alice from the Wapping district of London." [Reviewed for the *Mark Twain Forum* on Dec. 12, 2001 by Janice McIntire-Strasburg.]

Articles

Twain, Mark. *How Nancy Jackson Married Kate Wilson and Other Tales of Rebellious Girls and Daring Young Women.* Ed. John Cooley. University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 255 pages. Paperback. 6 x 9. \$16.95. ISBN 0-8032-9442-5. "This special edition brings together the best of Twain's stories about unconventional girls and women, from Eve as she names the animals in Eden to Joan of Arc to the transvestite farce of a

Zmijewski, David. "Busting His Way to Freedom: Huck Finn's Escape Through Violence." *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South.* New series, 6.1 (Spring 1995), published in 1997: 75-98.

———. "The Hornet: Mark Twain's Interpretations of a Perilous Journey." *The Hawaiian Journal of History* 33 (1999): 55-68.

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The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

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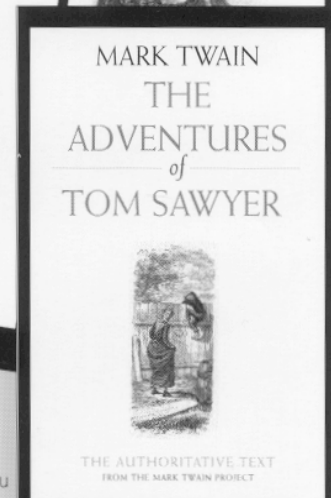
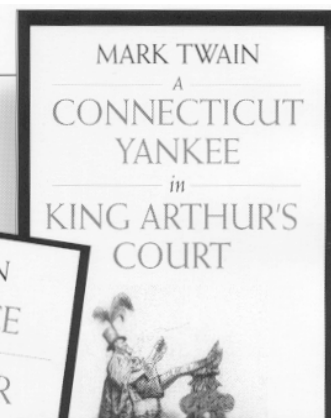
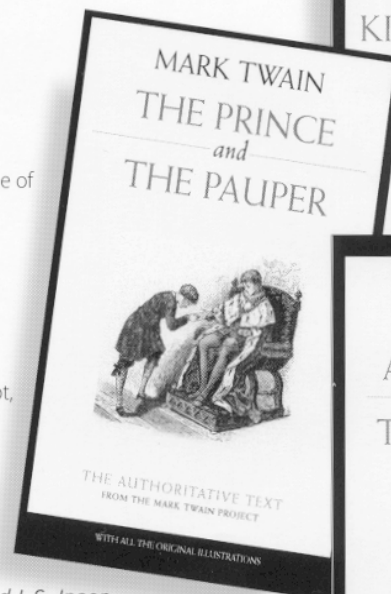
The Prince and the Pauper

Foreword and notes by Victor Fischer and Michael B. Frank,
text established by Victor Fischer,
with original illustrations by Frank T. Merrill, John J. Harley, and L.S. Ipsen

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Everything You Need to Know . . .

ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The *Mark Twain Circular*, newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America, was launched in January 1987 by Thomas A. Tenney (Editor of the *Mark Twain Journal*). James Leonard (The Citadel) assumed editorial responsibility with the February 1987 *Circular* and has continued in that capacity until the present. The *Circular* is published four times per year (Jan.–March, April–June, July–Sept., and Oct.–Dec.) 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, short biographical articles and critical commentaries, and current bibliography. Subscribers are distributed among 44 states and 14 foreign countries.



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; the membership has since grown to approximately 350. Current officers are displayed on p. 8. Past Presidents are Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covici, Jr., David E. E. Sloane, Victor A. Doyno, Michael J. Kiskis, and Shelley Fisher Fishkin. Past Executive Coordinators: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, Michael J. Kiskis, Laura Skandera-Trombley, and Joseph A. Alvarez. 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 MARK TWAIN JOURNAL. Founded in 1936 by Cyril Clemens, the *Mark Twain Journal* is the oldest American magazine devoted to a single author. In 1982, 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 2001 issues rather than the 2002. 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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