

Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

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President's Column

John Bird

Winthrop University



The growth of the internet has given a new virtual life to Mark Twain. A Google search on his name yields 24,100,000 hits. It doesn't take too many clicks to navigate to "The Mark Twain Pet Friendly Oceanfront Rental in Corolla, NC." Click. Hmm. It has 18 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms. I am having a conference idea! Oceanfront on the Outer Banks. But what about those pets? "Dogs welcome (1 max.), no cats." *No cats?* The nerve of naming this after Mark Twain. "A home without a cat—and a well-petted and properly revered cat—may be a perfect home, perhaps, but how can it prove title?"

I am obsessed with Mark Twain quotations on the internet. I know I am not alone in that obsession; Cindy Lovell, Executive Director of

the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, has written of hers. In 2010, for the centennial of Twain's death and the 125th anniversary of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, I posted a Mark Twain quotation on my Facebook page every day. Even after 365 of them, there were many more good ones I could have used. He said so much, so memorably.

But he did not say everything, even though you might think so from the internet and social media. Facebook friends post Twain "quotations" all the time, and more often than not, they are things that Twain did not say. I have the bad habit of pointing that out. "Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits." Perhaps the most misattributed Twain "quotation" is "Everybody always talks about the weather, but nobody ever does anything about it." As we all know, that one originated with his friend, neighbor, and collaborator Charles Dudley Warner. I think how sad it is that Warner, who had such a successful career as a writer and editor, said one thing that he should be remembered for—but Mark Twain steals his one potential moment of immortality.

The list of things Twain did not say, but everyone thinks he did, is a long one. "Golf is a

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good walk spoiled.” Nope—even if the PGA has used it as a slogan. That one was from Charles Haddon Spurgeon (according to Barbara Schmidt and her reliable site www.twainquotes.com). Speaking of lies—“There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.” Twain *did* say it, but he attributed it to Disraeli. (And ironically, Twain was in error about that.)

I must sheepishly confess that I have perpetuated these misattributions. I cannot count the number of times I have repeated this one: “The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer day in San Francisco.” Nope. He didn’t say it—even though the experience is quite true. But these widely misattributed quotations are only the tip of the iceberg. My Google search led me to several other Twain quotation sites. Let’s see what they yield.

Number one on Google is “The Official Web Site of Mark Twain.” Surely that one must be accurate, right? Click on their quotations and you get this one right off: “Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” Oh please! (But to their credit, the ones that follow are mostly the genuine article.) A site named “Mark Twain Quotes” (not to be confused with the authoritative “Twain Quotes” site) contains 129 Twain quotations. My rough count is that at least one third of these are spurious. The mixture of genuine quotations and spurious ones would surely be puzzling to the general public. Like this one: “Don’t go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.” A Google search on that saying yields an astonishing 14,800,000 results. The vast majority of them are “quoting” Mark Twain, an endless echo chamber reverberating a lie. The first hit is to Real Clear Politics, which tries to tell the truth and hack away at the misattribution, but I fear

that is futile, given those nearly 15 million other hits. How many conservative commentators have based a column on this “Mark Twain quote”?

A few months ago, a Facebook friend posted this one: “If it’s your job to eat a frog, it’s best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it’s your job to eat two frogs, it’s best to eat the biggest one first.” That one doesn’t require research to track it down—there’s just no way Twain said that. These spurious quotations often strike me that way: how could anyone even think he said something like that? But a Google search on “eat a frog” yields an astonishing 22,100,000 hits—many of them linking to this quotation, and most of those linking back to our garrulous writer. There’s even a book titled *Eat That Frog!: 21 Great Ways to Stop Procrastinating and Get More Done in Less Time*, by Brian Tracy, which has sold more than 450,000 copies. The title is attributed to, you guessed it, the man in white.

Just as Thoreau was a self-appointed inspector of snowstorms, I am a self-appointed inspector of Mark Twain quotations. I have given myself a job with no end, and with little or no chance of success. But I am well suited; as Mark Twain *really did* say, “All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.” I suppose it is a compliment to Mark Twain that people attribute to him any saying they find witty or memorable. But still . . .

(I want to put in a personal plug for the 2015 Mark Twain Conference in Hannibal, MO, July 12-15. I went to the first Hannibal conference in 2011—and that was my first visit to Hannibal. The conference papers and presentations were excellent, and the fellowship was stimulating and fun, as usual when Twainians gather. In addition to the academic portion of the conference, Henry Sweets and the staff of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum put together a remarkable set of activities: visits to the Boyhood Home, the Museum, the Birthplace Museum near Florida, the archeological reconstruction of the Quarles Family Farm site, the Mark Twain Cave, and a dinner riverboat cruise on the Mississippi. The highlight for me was the cave, which changed the way I read and understand both Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. I urge you to consider sending Henry a proposal, or just to attend. With the Elmira and Hannibal conferences alternating every two years, we are now blessed with two enriching experiences.)

Twain Talk

An Interview with Forrest Robinson



What was your dissertation topic and who directed your dissertation?

When I first arrived in Cambridge in September, 1963, I was a fervent Anglophile from provincial California with but a passing interest in American Literature. I gave my full attention to English Literature, specializing—in courses offered by Douglas Bush, Alfred Harbage, David Kalstone, and others—in the Renaissance. During a 1966-67 fellowship year studying in the grand old reading room of the British Museum, I completed my PhD dissertation under the supervision of Hershel Baker, with inspiration and generous guidance from Walter Ong, S.J. My first major publication was a Bobbs-Merrill edition of Sidney's An Apology for Poetry (1970), followed in 1972 by the revised and expanded version of my dissertation, The Shape of Things Known: Sidney's Apology in Its Philosophical Tradition. To be honest about it, Mark Twain was the furthest thing from my mind.

What's your earliest memory of reading Twain?

This is quite a wonderful memory. Just after the war, my parents settled for a time in the Sunset District of San Francisco while my dad was completing his medical training at UC Berkeley. My mom, who was very much involved with books, read to my two brothers and me every night before bed. My favorites were without doubt Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, which she read aloud from a boxed, two-volume set published in 1936 by The Heritage Press with glorious illustrations by Norman Rockwell. Those precious books grace the bookshelves in my study to this day. My children will inherit them.

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

When I returned to California in 1970 to accept a job at UC Santa Cruz (from which I retired, after 44 years, last June), I was still very much engaged in research and teaching in Renaissance materials. But that soon changed. California was no longer provincial. UC Berkeley had arrived under Clark Kerr's leadership as the world's premier research university, and California's history and culture were emerging with new luster in my friend Kevin Starr's Americans and the California Dream, 1850-1915, the first of the many volumes in his celebrated series on our home state. More important still, Michael Cowan, my

friend and colleague at UCSC, invited me to join him and a few other faculty—including John Dizikes, Marge Frantz, John Schaar, and Paul Skenazy—in the development of the new American Studies program, which would in time achieve considerable distinction. I seized the opportunity both because of the program's featured inclusiveness and interdisciplinarity, and because of the shared vision and warm collegiality of the faculty. I offered my first American Studies course, on Herman Melville, in about 1975. It was only a matter of time—a year or two, as it happened—before I had the pleasure of my first classroom encounter with Mark Twain.

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

Going into that first course, my impressions of Twain were like the impressions of most other people, scholars included, that he was an inspired and somehow representative American humorist who yoked a robust American vernacular to the point of view of ordinary people and innocent children in stories about our shared national life, with particular attention to the West, to relations with Europe, and to the troubled topic of slavery, which he made palatable by presenting it in the words and deeds of Huck Finn. Those impressions changed quickly and dramatically when I read his works, many of them for the first time, with close critical attention. I was of course struck by the directness and crystalline clarity of the writing, and by the presiding voice of Mark Twain, a man of protean views often advanced with potent humor. But I was also alive to the darker undercurrents of the work: by the pervasive disenchantment of *The Innocents Abroad*, the tone of ironic futility running through much of *Roughing It*, *A Connecticut Yankee*, and

Pudd'nhead Wilson, and by Huck Finn's terrible loneliness and grim presentiments about the injustice and perversity of life along the Mississippi.

All of this came home to me with special force during a trip with my 7-year-old daughter, Grace, to The Drowsy Water Dude Ranch, a rustic retreat set on the continental divide in the Colorado Rockies. Consciously emulating my mother, I sat down with Grace each evening before bed to enjoy what I recalled as the rollicking humor of Tom Sawyer. Before we had gotten very far, however, Grace's reactions were the clearest signs possible that she did not share my assessment of the book's character. Where I found fun, her attention ran to the confusion, conflict, and bloody violence on display in the action of the novel, and most especially in the at once frightening and pitiable figure of Injun Joe. He murders Dr. Robinson, who enlists his help in robbing graves; he plans vicious revenge on the Widow Douglas; and he haunts McDougal's cave like a bad dream, and then dies a terrible death trying to escape its darkness.

From Grace's vantage, none of this was funny at all, quite in spite of my puzzling assurances to the contrary.

Nor did she warm to Tom, who struck her as selfish and deceitful. It was squarely in the light of Grace's unanticipated responses that my own understanding of Tom Sawyer, and of Twain's writing more generally, began to take shape.

How could adults have gotten it all so wrong for so long? What was the meaning of America's investment in the idea of Mark Twain funny-man? Questions such as these turn up again and again in my first book on Twain, *In Bad Faith: The Dynamics of Deception in Mark Twain's America*, which appeared in 1986, quite appropriately dedicated to Grace.



Since fairly early on, then, my impressions of Twain and his work have been subject to change. But the direction of change has been pretty consistent, and it has almost invariably drawn me into alignment with scholars and critics who have taken issue with the dominant, beloved funny-man and “Lincoln of our Literature” approach to Twain’s oeuvre. I found—and continue to find—Justin Kaplan’s Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain indispensable, both for its complex and nuanced construction of its subject’s personality, and for the many brilliant insights to which that construction gives rise. I am also deeply indebted to the kindred example of the late, great James M. Cox, who embraced the Kaplan biography as “the decisive work on Mark Twain in our time,” and whose brilliant Mark Twain: The Fate of Humor advances the bold intention “not merely to argue with or to depend upon” earlier critics, but instead, like Kaplan, “to displace their work” altogether.

The game-changing contributions of Kaplan and Cox were published in the same year, 1966, and clearly reflect the chastened, self-critical mood of the country in a period of tumultuous social change brought on by the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War. As Jonathan Arac argues so persuasively in “Huckleberry Finn” as Idol and Target, the troubled temper of the times enjoined a more careful and candid reading of Twain’s similarly troubled masterpiece. My own work, beginning with In Bad Faith, and continuing in numerous other books and articles, is throughout of a piece with this decidedly revisionist approach. Prominent in my mind among the many others who have contributed to this critical conversation are Laurence B. Holland, Neil Schmitz, Myra Jehlen, David Lionel Smith, Eric Lott, Evan Carton, John Carlos Rowe, Judith Fetterley, Hamlin Hill, Eric Sundquist, David R. Sewell, Roger B. Salomon, Richard Bridgman, Gregg Camfield, Randall Knoper, and Peter Messent. Terrell Dempsey’s remarkable Searching for Jim: Slavery in Sam Clemens’ World, with its emphasis on the

interplay of guilt and denial in the slave culture of antebellum Hannibal, develops especially close historical analogs to the critical perspectives featured in my own scholarship. It has been greatly satisfying to work in such company.

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

It was my great pleasure to engage in research at the Mark Twain Papers when Fred Anderson was still alive, and when such notables as Henry Nash Smith and Hamlin Hill were frequently on hand. Bernard DeVoto died in 1955, well before my time, but his mingled brilliance and abrasiveness were brought home to me in the admiring reminiscences of Wallace Stegner, his close friend and biographer. (Stegner was himself the subject of an early literary and biographical study that I co-authored with Margaret Gordon in 1977.) It was one among many delightful revelations in writer and director Nora Ephron’s 2009 film, Julie & Julia, that DeVoto’s wife, Avis, famous in Cambridge circles for her beautiful legs, was Julia Child’s editor, friend, and sexual confidante. But it was Jim Cox who told the most illuminating stories related to Mark Twain. Most memorably, perhaps, in his keynote address at a UC Santa Cruz conference on Pudd’nhead Wilson more than 20 years ago, Jim reflected on his Southern heritage, and more narrowly on the regional pride and regional regret that merged so potently in his own life and work. “Sometimes I want to be guilty about this history,” he allowed; “sometimes I am less sure. My grandfather, as near as I can make out, owned three slaves. . . . I am that close to slavery, which yet seems far away. How much closer it must seem to blacks I find myself imagining, yet cannot know.”

What have you grown to dislike about Twain the man?

Nothing. Oh, it’s true, he was a very imperfect fellow, lazy, self-indulgent, liable to play fast

and loose with the truth, improvident, given to sudden, fierce outbursts of anger, and a well-intentioned but erratic parent. Mark Twain was hopelessly contradictory. I think of him as a brother animal, a man who knew quite a good deal about pleasure and joy and laughter, but who was also closely familiar with the disenchantment, rage, and guilt—most especially the guilt—that bedevil certain mortals. I feel a great debt to him for his willingness—indeed, his need—to confront squarely and to express openly the darkness in his own nature. Such was the wisdom of a woe that became all but intolerable during the last years of his life. Who can read Chapter 38 of *Following the Equator*, or *The Mysterious Stranger*, or that tormented fragment, “Which Was It?” or “The Death of Jean,” without recognizing Mark Twain’s extraordinary courage and honesty?

What do you see as the legacy of your 1986 study, *In Bad Faith*?

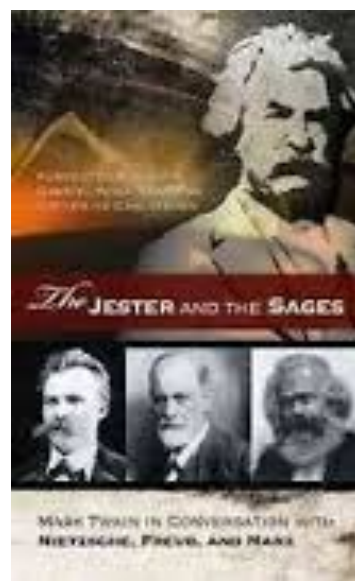
Academic publications are famously perishable. I would like to think that *In Bad Faith* will continue to be read for a while longer by a few students and scholars. But I’ve also been in this business long enough to know that the word “legacy” is applicable to few scholarly publications, most of which, sometimes deservedly, disappear from sight and mind in pretty short order. If *In Bad Faith* is to enjoy a slightly enhanced life expectancy, then I hope it will earn that distinction for the qualities that Jim Cox generously ascribed to it while it was still in manuscript. In a personal letter of 6 July 1984—two years before the book’s publication—Jim wrote: “I think your work is immensely strong in its ability to implicate not only Mark Twain but his entire culture (and ours) in the business of bad faith. . . . In showing just how the book [Tom Sawyer] expresses the ambivalence of an entire culture, and in this way discloses just how profoundly representative of his culture Mark Twain was (and how creative he was in representing it), you make what seems to me a great step

forward in the continuing critical discussion of the book. Your work will absolutely have to be dealt with by any future writing about it.” I am still humbled when I read those words, coming as they did from the Mark Twain scholar whom I revered above all others.

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

In *Bad Faith*, especially if one shares Jim Cox’s assessment of the book, is surely central to whatever contributions I may have hoped to make to Twain studies. The *Author-Cat: Clemens’ Life in Fiction* is cut from the same critical cloth, and extends the argument of *In Bad Faith* to the rest of the major writings. Three other publications, all of them collaborative projects, may also qualify in this regard. The collection of essays entitled *Mark Twain’s “Pudd’nhead Wilson: Race, Conflict, and Culture*, which I coedited with my friend and colleague, Susan Gillman, has stimulated a good deal of fresh discussion about this powerful if vexed American text, and has thereby elevated its stature. *Mark Twain at the Turn-of-the Century, 1890-1910*, a special number of the *Arizona Quarterly* co-edited

with another friend and colleague, Shelley Fisher Fishkin, was designed to draw scholarly attention to important but too often neglected late writings. There is some evidence that we were at least modestly successful in that ambition. Finally, I hope that *The Jester and the Sages: Mark Twain in Conversation with Nietzsche, Freud, and Marx*, co-authored with former students and enduring friends, Gabriel Noah Brahm Jr. and Catherine Carlstroem, will



Sages: Mark Twain in Conversation with Nietzsche, Freud, and Marx, co-authored with former students and enduring friends, Gabriel Noah Brahm Jr. and Catherine Carlstroem, will

find a place along side such recent volumes as Carl Dolmetsch's "Our Famous Guest": Mark Twain in Vienna in highlighting the ways in which the American humorist's leading questions, ideas, and assumptions overlapped with those of his much more solemn and systematic continental contemporaries.

What do you think still needs to be done in Mark Twain studies?

*There is no ceiling on the possibilities here. Among topics that I have considered but despair of getting to, I would include close critical readings of *Life on the Mississippi*, *Following the Equator*, and the late, fragmentary texts included in *Mark Twain's Which Was the Dream?* A long look at Twain's reflections on death is also probably overdue, especially as they multiplied during the later decades of his life, when he seems to have engaged in complex preparations for his own demise. We have had a steady harvest of new biographies in the last decade or so: those by Everett Emerson, Fred Kaplan, Ron Powers, and Jerome Loving are all first-rate. Doubtless interest in the supremely interesting life of this American icon will remain high. More narrowly focused biographical studies of specific periods and topics—recent books by Peter Messent, Philip Ashley Fanning, Susan K. Harris, Charles*

H. Gold, and Laura Skandera-Trombley come most readily to mind—will also continue to surface in growing numbers. Attention to such topics as race, class, gender, religion, politics, and philosophy has also been on the rise, and will likely remain so. Once again, the scholarly opportunities are virtually unlimited.

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

Read widely and carefully in the primary texts. Take your initial critical cues from the works themselves, developing your insights and analysis as far as you can before turning to secondary materials. At the same time, avoid the temptation to become a narrowly focused specialist. Once you have achieved clarity and coherence in your understanding of Mark Twain, diversify, expanding as much as possible your range of scholarly interests and expertise. This will stimulate continued intellectual growth and an enriched framework in which to think and write about Mark Twain. Above all, enjoy the ride!

Forrest Robinson retired from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 2014 following a distinguished career of 44 years as Professor of American Studies.



Photo Gallery

MLA and ALA 2014





Mark Twain Circle

Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting

ALA Annual Conference
Washington D.C.
May 25, 2014

President Linda Morris called the meeting to order at 2 pm.

In attendance were Linda Morris, president; John Bird, vice president; Sharon McCoy, executive coordinator; Chad Rohman, editor, *Mark Twain Annual*; Joseph Csicsila, editor, *Mark Twain Circular*; Joe Alvarez; Jim Caron; Kerry Driscoll; Dennis Eddings; Paula Harrington; Larry Howe; Tom Inge; Judith Lee; Jan McIntire-Strasburg; Ann Ryan; Jarrod Roark; David E. E. Sloane.

John Bird presented the vice president's report, focusing first on the Circle's online presence. The Circle's website (marktwaincircle.org), at a cost of \$26 per year for the domain name, allows the Circle to publicize events and new publications relating to Mark Twain, posting pictures and information, including member lists and archived issues of the *Circular*. It also provides a PayPal link so that new members may join and current members can renew online. Members who prefer can still download the form and send payment through the mail with a check or money order. The Mark Twain Circle also has a Facebook page now, offering frequent quotations and announcements, which has attracted some new members to the Circle.

Bird also raised the issue of the annual Modern Language Association (MLA) 2015 meeting in Vancouver. MLA has for the

second year in a row denied a second session to the Circle. After the previous year's denial, the MLA had said that second sessions organized jointly by two organizations had a better chance of acceptance; the Circle and the American Humor Studies Association (AHSA) jointly proposed a second session on *Serious Autobiography*, but were denied. John Bird pointed out that this was an unfair hardship for any graduate students or adjunct or contingent faculty on the panel because the MLA required dues payment for panelists by March, but delayed notification of session acceptance or denial until May or June. Discussion ensued, with various members suggesting a formal protest to the MLA, and others arguing that such a protest would do more harm than good. Tom Inge pointed out that because MLA's reorganization has already occurred, the time to speak is past. Jan McIntire-Strasburg suggested we make a closer examination of MLA's reorganization, looking into ways to use it more effectively in proposing sessions. Ann Ryan stressed the importance of keeping lines of open with MLA, and offering a session with broad popular appeal to draw in a larger audience. John Bird stated that the authors' societies were meeting later in the afternoon, and he would raise the issue to see if the denial of a second session was widespread and to discuss strategies.

Other upcoming conferences were discussed. Ann Ryan discussed the upcoming AHSA/Mark Twain Circle Quadrennial Conference, December 4-7, 2014, at the Four Points Sheraton French Quarter in New Orleans. Six additional sessions were needed, and Ryan asked those members present to spread the word. The Mark Twain Circle will

have a panel at SAMLA, November 7-9, 2014, "From Corn-Pone to Delmonico's: Feasting with Twain." And while The Mark Twain Circle is not officially affiliated with the upcoming Mark Twain Conference in Hannibal, Missouri, July 23-25, 2015, John Bird strongly encouraged members to submit abstracts. The inaugural conference was in August 2011, and included such highlights as trips to the Mark Twain Cave, the birthplace museum in Florida, MO, the Quarles Farm, and more. Abstracts will be accepted through February 15, 2015, and should be sent to Henry Sweets of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum. The call for papers is posted on our website, marktwaincircle.org.

Chad Rohman presented the report for the *Mark Twain Annual*, which will be publishing its second edition with Pennsylvania State University Press this year. Rohman reported that the press has been responsive, the editorial management site is working well, and he is already receiving strong submissions for 2015; he commented that the Elmira 2013 International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies had greatly contributed to the number of interesting submissions. Volume 12 of the *Annual* will be coming out in winter 2014. Rohman also reported the good news that the *Annual* is now properly listed in the *MLA Directory of Periodicals* as a peer-reviewed journal, linked to the *MLA Bibliography*, and that a glitch in the listing with the EBSCO database has been fixed. Rohman concluded with thanks to all for their efforts and submissions.

Joseph Csicsila reported that the first

electronic issue of the *Mark Twain Circular* had been published during the past week, with a limited run of print editions for members without email addresses and libraries that had previously paid for a print subscription. Csicsila reported that the feedback so far has been positive, and talked about innovations to the *Circular*, including interviews with esteemed senior Twain scholars. Csicsila requested that if anyone had suggestions for new ideas that could be accommodated in the e-format, that members should please get in touch with him. He also requested that pertinent pictures and links be sent. Linda Morris raised a question about the relevance of the president's column, saying that while it is good to have the president's voice in the *Circular*, it shouldn't necessarily be a major feature, and expressed a desire for more use of color pictures, enabled by the new format.



Sharon McCoy presented the treasury and membership report. Last year's account balance was \$10,158.98. Income during the past year from membership dues, royalties, and institutional subscriptions to the *Circular* totals

\$5745.54; expenses totaled \$4,576.50, including the webpage, books for review in the *Annual*, reception expenses, travel stipends for officers to the annual meeting, PayPal fees, and award gifts and certificates. The current balance in the treasury is \$11,328.02. Member totals include 192 U.S. members and 29 international members. The Circle gained twenty-eight new members this year, with nineteen joining through the new PayPal option on the website. The PayPal option also was used by twenty-eight renewing members. McCoy also brought up

the problem of past-due memberships, pointing out that twenty-three members would be dropped for nonpayment of past dues if they do not renew soon. General discussion ensued about attracting new members to the Circle and reaching out to current members, including the Circle's growing Internet presence. At its height, membership in the Circle was said to be about 500, but the membership numbers have remained fairly static in the past ten years, as pointed out in our most recent MLA review.

Joe Alvarez reported on the upcoming expenses for the AHSA/Mark Twain Circle joint conference in New Orleans. At the last conference, expenses exceeded fees by about \$3000. Alvarez suggested either raising the conference fee or cutting back on the amount spent on food to save money. Judith Lee spoke against raising the fees, recalling that one significant purpose of the conference was to attract graduate students, junior faculty, and other young scholars, and it was generally agreed that raising fees was not a desirable option.

Joseph Csicsila then presented nominations for the four offices with terms set to expire.

Nominations were as follows: John Bird for president; Kerry Driscoll, vice president; Linda Morris, executive committee member, past president; Larry Howe, executive committee member, at-large. Joe Alvarez seconded the nominations. There being no discussion, Linda Morris called for a vote, and the new officers were unanimously approved.

Linda Morris mentioned Jim Leonard's long-term service to the Mark Twain Circle, citing his active presence in the Circle and his continued managing editorship of the *Annual*. She proposed writing him a formal letter of thanks, and this was unanimously approved.

As a final order of business, Linda Morris, as outgoing president, was presented with a gift in deep appreciation of her service and leadership, a copy of the 1884-1885 volume of the *Century* magazine, containing three excerpts from *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon D. McCoy

The Mark Twain Annual

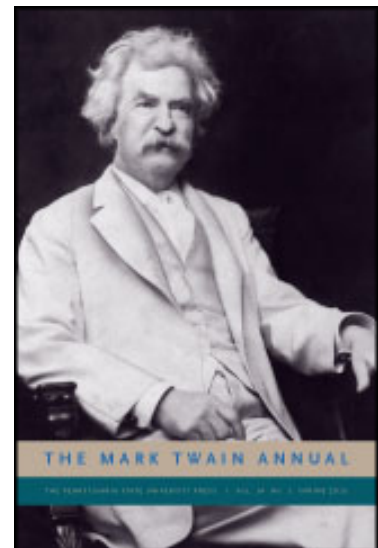
The Journal of the Mark Twain Circle of America

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 inquiries and information about the journal please contact Chad Rohman at crohman@dom.edu.



Renew Your Membership in the Mark Twain Circle of America for 2015!

And if you haven't yet renewed for 2014, you can use this form, too.

Individual: \$30 (\$32 outside U. S. A.) per calendar year
\$25 for graduate students

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:

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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

**Sharon McCoy, Executive Coordinator
Mark Twain Circle of America
165 Weatherly Woods Drive
Winterville, GA 30683**

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Academic Affiliation (if any) _____

Questions? Sharon McCoy can be reached at sdmccoy@uga.edu or sdmccoy@alum.emory.edu

Mark Twain Circle

2015 Calls for Papers

American Literature Association
Boston, Massachusetts: May 21-24, 2015

“Mark Twain and Disability”

Mark Twain’s works are filled with characters who are challenged by disability, a theme he explored throughout his career. His constant focus on the body yields a rich and interesting set of themes and ideas. This session calls for papers that use the emerging field of disability studies to examine Twain’s work. Preference will be given to works that have a relatively narrow focus rather than broad overviews. Papers should have some theoretical connection to disability studies, although Twain should be the main focus. Send 250-500 word abstracts by January 15, 2015 to John Bird, birdj@winthrop.edu.

“Returning to the Scene of the “Crime”: Mark Twain’s “Whittier Birthday Speech” Re-enacted and Reconsidered”

Rather than a session of papers, this session will involve a re-enactment of Twain’s notorious Whittier Birthday Speech, delivered at Boston’s Hotel Brunswick in 1877, with a reading of the speech, readings of newspaper accounts, readings from letters between William Dean Howells and Twain, and readings of reminiscences by both Howells and Twain. A discussion will follow. Persons who plan to attend the conference and are willing to read parts (and thus join the company of The Mark Twain Players) should contact John Bird by January 15, 2015. Scripts will be distributed in advance of the conference. Send to birdj@winthrop.edu.

Mark Twain’s Hannibal: The Clemens Conference
Hannibal, Missouri: July 12-15, 2015

The Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum is proud to offer its second scholarly conference in the town where young Sam first expressed himself as a writer. Please join us for a distinguished sampling of research on our favorite author in the setting he immortalized. The Conference includes exploring the Mark Twain Cave, and a relaxing dinner aboard the Mark Twain Riverboat, a visit out to the Mark Twain birthplace/museum in Florida, Missouri. If you have a topic for consideration as a presentation, contact Henry Sweets at henry.sweets@marktwainmuseum.org for further information.

Modern Language Association
Austin, Texas: January 7-10, 2016

“Re-presenting Twain”

Papers are invited examining new interpretations of the author’s identity and legacy, both in his own work (particularly the complex notions of selfhood found in his newly published *Autobiography*) and contemporary popular culture in general. Please send one page abstracts to Kerry Driscoll, Vice President of the Mark Twain Circle of America (kerryannedriscoll@gmail.com) by 15 March 2015.

Mark Twain Bibliography

Recent Publications

Books:

Bailey, Susan Madeline and Deborah Lynn Gosselin, *The Twain Shall Meet: The Mysterious Legacy of Samuel L. Clemens' Granddaughter, Nina Clemens Gabrilowitsch* (Self-published, 2014).

Did famous author Mark Twain's only surviving child, Clara, and her daughter, Nina Clemens Gabrilowitsch, take a life-long secret to their graves? After extensive research, and using techniques from genetic genealogy, *The Twain Shall Meet* authors believe the answer is a resounding "yes." If you thought you knew everything about Samuel Langhorne Clemens' family, this book will be a page-turning eye opener. This work of nonfiction takes the reader on a mesmerizing and heartwarming journey into the tangled universe of mother-daughter relationships as co-authors Susan Bailey and genealogist and historic researcher Deborah Gosselin seek to uncover the identity of Bailey's mother—a quest that leads them straight into the heart of Clara's and Nina's world.

Hopkins, Richard L., *The Tragic Saga of James W. Paige's Marvelous Typesetting Machine* (Hill & Dale Private Press and Type Foundry, 2014).

The word *marvelous* is a bit of a spoiler, and tells you right away what author Richard Hopkins thinks of James W. Paige's invention. Most Mark Twain scholars familiar with the oft-repeated story of James W. Paige and Mark Twain would agree with *Tragic Saga* but instead of *Marvelous*, they would substitute words like unreliable, infernal, and insane, and none would expect to have their minds changed by a privately printed 15 page pamphlet. But Paige's machine *was* marvelous and this is no ordinary pamphlet.

Film:

88 Days in the Motherlode (<http://www.thisnthatfilms.net/mark-twain>)

In the fall of 1864 Samuel Clemens felt that he was a failure. Recently fired from a newspaper job he didn't like anyway, he had failed as a gold miner, a silver miner, a lumber baron, a soldier and by now he was destitute. Jim Gillis offered him a sanctuary. He suggested Clemens join he and Dick Stoker at Gillis' small cabin in the Sierra Nevada foothills for a while. Samuel Clemens underwent a transformation in those 88 days in Angels Camp and Jackass Hill and found his voice as Mark Twain - one of America's greatest writers and humorists. What was so magical about these 88 days that brought him from the depths of depression to a re-invigoration that propelled him forward to international stardom? Join us as we explore those 88 days in the Mother Lode through Mark Twain's eyes.

Mark Twain Annual (2014)

Horst Kruse, "Once by the Mississippi: Mark Twain and the Literary Iconography of America"

Jarrold Roark, "Beneath Mark Twain: Detecting Sensation Residues in Twain's Early Writing"

Linda A. Morris, "Twice-Told Tales: Aunt Sally Phelps and the 'Evasion' in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"

Sharon D. McCoy, "No Evading the Jokes: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain, and Male Friendship Across Race and Class Lines"

David E.E. Sloane, "The N-Word in *Huckleberry Finn* Reconsidered"

Angela Tharp and David E.E. Sloane, "An analysis of Mark Twain's Use of Racial Terms When Describing African Americans"

Paula Harrington and Ronald Jenn, "Uncovering the French: On the Roots and Uses of Twain's Antipathy"

Carolyn Grattan Eichin, "From Sam Clemens to Mark Twain: Sanitizing the Western Experience"

Gary Scharnhorst, "Clemens and the Campbellites"

Mark Twain Journal (Spring 2014)

The contents of this Spring 2014 issue primarily explore aspects of the final decade and a half of Clemens's life. Tsuyoshi Ishihara has visited and photographed the sites of the two villas in Florence that Clemens rented, and more than anything else Ishihara's descriptions bring into focus the enormity and elaborateness of these scenic residences. Although his temporary homes could not provide the relief from cares that Clemens was desperately seeking, their vistas and other charms at least enabled him to continue writing.

Matthew D. Klauza returns to our pages (his "Mark Twain, Homesickness, and Hannibal" essay appeared in Volume 48) with a careful examination of a 1903 Twain manuscript so little known that its very title has remained unclear. Michael Crews proposes a new reading of certain passages of Twain's *What Is Man?* Patrick K. Dooley traces Twain's concepts of what he termed "conscience" in several of his works, especially *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *What Is Man?*

Beginning with this issue, the *Mark Twain Journal* is commencing a new feature, "Legacy Scholars," designed to summarize the achievements of those who have made a long-term impact on the field of Mark Twain studies. David E. E. Sloane has been selected as the inaugural Legacy Scholar, and a synopsis of his work and its influence has been prepared by John Bird. This recognition is intended as a token of the debt that a great many of us owe to David Sloane's innovative publications. One of the main purposes of the series will be to acquaint the younger generations of students and professors with those who have shaped Mark Twain scholarship in significant ways.

The *Mark Twain Journal* also wishes to take note of the passing of Beverly R. David, the first scholar to study in detail the illustrations in the first editions of Twain's books and the artists behind them. Barbara Schmidt has written a tribute to help readers appreciate "Penny" David's insights.

Alas, for the first time in memory the *Mark Twain Journal* has to acknowledge that an important passage was inadvertently omitted in a recent article in Volume 51. In order to fulfill our obligation to both the author and our readers, we have added extra pages to this present issue in order to include a corrected version of Lawrence I. Berkove's essay about "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg."

Mark Twain Journal (Fall 2014)

In this issue the *Mark Twain Journal* honors Lawrence I. Berkove as a Legacy Scholar. His former student (and now Professor of English at Eastern Michigan University Joseph Csicsila) summarizes the importance of Berkove's scholarship to Twain studies.

The paths of two great talents—one scientific and the other literary—connected during the Gilded Age and sparked mutual admiration and a friendship that lasted for their lifetimes. The theories about electricity developed by Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) and the writings of Mark Twain (1835-1910) still resonate in the twenty-first century. Bratislav Stojiljkovic, Dragoljub A. Cucic, and Zoran Pajic contribute an essay that outlines the friendship of Tesla and Twain, and explains the genius behind Tesla's electrical discoveries and inventions.

Kevin Mac Donnell's article investigates a printing hoax that Sam Clemens played in 1856 when he lived with his brothers Orion and Henry in Keokuk, Iowa. Tongue in cheek, he declared himself an "Antiquarian" in the *Keokuk City Directory for 1856-7*. John Lockwood writes about Twain's "The Legend of the Capitoline Venus" hoax and a later imitation of the same stratagem. Matt Seybold's "Tom Sawyer Impersonates 'The Original Confidence Man'" researches literary and actual nineteenth-century confidence men and their place among American characters.

What has happened to river pilot Isaiah Sellers's journal and logbook? That remains a mystery, but Michael H. Marleau traces their whereabouts to a certain point and presents a genealogy of the Sellers family.

Jeanne Campbell Reesman's "Mark Twain vs. God: The Story of a Relationship" illustrates how Twain's writings continue to lead our imagination into meditations and deeper observations about humankind. In a similar study of Twain's political savvy, Stefan Kehlenbach's "I am an American: The Political Consequences of Hank Morgan's Lack of Identity" finds Hank Morgan as relevant today as in the sixth and nineteenth centuries.

We sadly take notice of the passing of J. R. LeMaster of Baylor University.

The *Mark Twain Journal* concludes the year with an interview with McAvoy Layne, a Mark Twain educator who has read all of Twain's published writings (18,000 pages) in ten years. Layne primarily considers himself an educator rather than an impersonator but has given more than 4,000-plus performances as the white-suited Twain.

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