



# Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 13

April-June 1999

Number 2

## The Circle at ALA

James S. Leonard  
The Citadel

If you noticed how well everything went at the American Literature Association conference this year, you no doubt understood that it was because the conference was being co-directed by two officers of the Mark Twain Circle: Vice President (and past Executive Coordinator) Laura Skandera-Trombley (Coe College) and Executive Committee member (and past President and past Executive Coordinator) Michael Kiskis (Elmira College). In addition to their role as conference dignitaries and indispensable functionaries for the conference as a whole, Professors Skandera-Trombley and Kiskis participated in a session titled "Mark Twain's Daughters." There were also outstanding sessions on "Mark Twain and Race," "Mark Twain

and Others," and "Twain on Fire." And there was a Sunday morning business meeting at which John Bird (Winthrop University) was named to a three-year term succeeding Joseph Alvarez (Central Piedmont Community College) as Executive Coordinator of the Mark Twain Circle. Professor Alvarez, in turn, celebrated the completion of his highly successful three-year term by moving to the Executive Committee succeeding David E. E. Sloane (University of New Haven), who has given seven years of outstanding service to the Circle as Vice President, President, and Executive Committee member. Other current members of the Executive Committee are Victor Doyno (SUNY at Buffalo) and Michael Kiskis. Shelley Fisher Fishkin (University of Texas, Austin) continues as President, and Laura Skandera-Trombley continues as Vice President.

## More Honors for Louis J. Budd

Everett Emerson  
UNC-Chapel Hill

At the 1998 Modern Language Association convention in San Francisco, the American Literature Section awarded Louis J. Budd the Jay B. Hubbell Medallion Award for distinguished service to American literature. The selection committee consisted of Jonathan Arac, Shari Benstock, Judith Fetterly, Eric Sundquist, and Jackson R. Bryer, chair. The citation reviews Professor Budd's illustrious career and his many honors. Following a summary of his academic career, Bryer writes:

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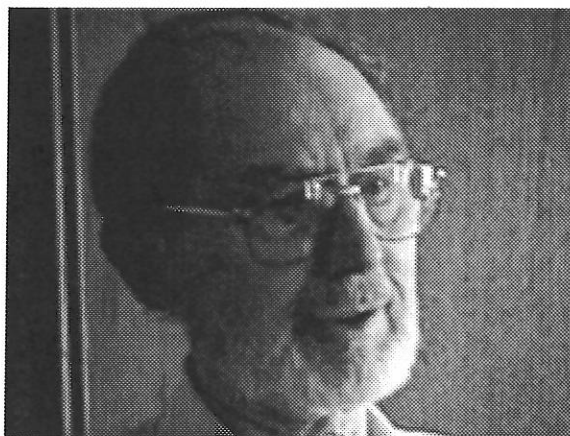
The words which come to my mind after my . . . survey of Lou's career are modesty and service. Chief among the grants and fellowships he has received are a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1965-66 and an NEH Senior Fellowship in 1979-80. At Duke he has directed some thirty Ph.D. dissertations, was director of Undergraduate Studies for four years and Chair of the English Department for six years, 1973-1979. He was also chair of the committee which established Duke's program in Afro-American studies.

Lou's chief scholarly subject has been Mark Twain. He is the author of two seminal books, *Mark Twain: Social Philosopher* (1962) and *Our Mark Twain: The Making of His Public Personality* (1983). His scholarly essays, book chapters, and review essays on Mark Twain by my count number well over seventy. His *A Listing of and Selection from Newspaper and Magazine Interviews with Samuel L. Clemens, 1874-1910*, originally published in 1974 and supplemented in 1996, is an invaluable annotated listing of over three hundred interviews with reprintings of several of the most interesting and inaccessible items. Budd has also edited two volumes on Mark Twain in the *G. K. Hall Critical Essays* series in 1982 and 1983; *New*

*Essays on "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" for the Cambridge series; and the Library of America's two-volume edition of Mark Twain's Collected Tales, Sketches, Speeches, and Essays.*

For ten years, 1976-1985, Louis Budd wrote the Mark Twain chapter for *American Literary Scholarship*, one of the longest tenures of service of any contributor in the 36-year history of the annual; he contributed the chapter on "Nineteenth-Century Fiction" for four years, 1963-1966. From 1979-1986 he served as managing editor of the journal *American Literature*, and from 1986 to 1991 was chairman of the Board of Editors. His forthcoming work includes the essay on Mark Twain in *American National Biography*, the Mark Twain volume in Cambridge University Press's *Critical Archives* series, the essay on Mark Twain's critical reputation in the *Oxford Historical Reader's Companion to Mark Twain*, and five volumes of Mark Twain's social and political writings (one to contain previously unpublished material) for the University of California Press edition of the *Works of Mark Twain*.

His laurels include honorary degrees from the



Lou Budd at ALA 99

University of Missouri and Elmira College, recognition as an Honored Life Member of the Mark Twain Circle of America, and the John Hurt Fisher Award for Career Achievement in Letters by the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. To these honors, his grateful colleagues in the field of American literary studies are pleased to add the 1998 Hubbell Award. We present it to this good man, this generous, modest man, who has given us so much—in his scholarly work, in his service to our profession. Perhaps the most appropriate manner in which to summarize why we honor Louis J. Budd today is simply to quote the last three words of Alan Gribben's evaluation of Lou's 1996 update of his 1977 listing of Mark Twain interviews. Writing in *ALS*, Gribben said, "Gratitude should abound." Indeed it should. So thank you, Lou.

## Cyril Clemens

[The following is excerpted from a *St. Louis Post* obituary (May 18, 1999) that was provided to the *Circular* by Cyril Clemens' daughter-in-law Joanna Clemens, of Fountain Valley, California]

Cyril Clemens, who became one of Kirkwood's best-known residents after devoting his life to keeping alive the memory of Mark Twain, died Sunday (May 16, 1999) at St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood. He was 96 and had lived in Kirkwood for 66 years.

Mr. Clemens said his great-great-grandfather and Samuel Langhorne Clemens' great-great-grandfather were brothers—and therefore, he and the famous writer

and humorist were third cousins, twice removed.

Mr. Clemens liked to tell of the last time he had seen Mark Twain, as the writer called himself: "He and my father were close friends, and our family went to visit him at his Connecticut home in 1909, the year before he died. I was just a child, but his image—his white suit and flowing white hair—remains strong."

Mr. Clemens also recalled that while playing with one of Mark Twain's cats, he had asked: "What is better than a cat?" To which Twain is supposed to have replied: "Two cats!"

Mr. Clemens was born July 14, 1902, in St. Louis and attended Georgetown University in Washington before finishing

his college work at Washington University.

Shortly after earning master's degrees in history and English, Mr. Clemens launched his lifelong career as a collector of Twain history.

His hair was as white as Twain's, and his home looked like a Twain museum inside.

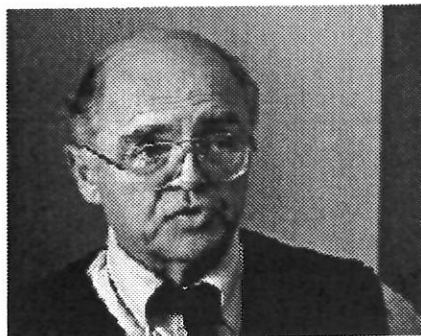
In his 20s, Mr. Clemens founded the International Mark Twain Society and began publishing the *Mark Twain Journal*. He signed up every famous person he could and put them on the masthead as friends, sponsors or donors. When he included Benito Mussolini, it caused a stir. Mr. Clemens later explained that Mussolini was a great Twain fan and had been gracious during Mr. Clemens' visit to Rome. "We dropped him later, after he fell in with bad company," Mr. Clemens said. Mr. Clemens was married to the late Nan Shallcross. Among the survivors are a granddaughter, Robin Clemens of South Salem, N.Y., and a great-grandson, Christopher Clemens Kaplan of South Salem, N.Y.

### Circular Web Site

For current articles and other information pertinent to Mark Twain scholarship, check out the new *Mark Twain Circular* web site:

<<http://www.citadel.edu/faculty/leonard/mtcircular.htm>>

### Faces at ALA



Vic Doyno on Twain's Daughters



Laura Skandera-Trombley on Clara



Jocelyn Chadwick-Joshuaon MT and Race

## MT at SAMLA

The Mark Twain Circle will sponsor a panel at the 1999 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA, November 4-6.

**Session:** *Mark Twain and Culture Influence*

**Chair:** Janet Gabler-Hover,  
Georgia State U

**Presenters:**

1. Robert Sattelmeyer (Georgia State U), "The Awful German Influence."
2. Thomas Quirk (U of Missouri), "Mark Twain in Large and Small: The Infinite and the

Infinitesimal."

3. Joseph L. Coulombe (U of Tennessee, Martin), "A Racial Pattern in Mark Twain's Western Sketches and *Huck Finn*."

**Respondent:** Lawrence Howe, Roosevelt C

## Mark Twain Sites

### What's Past, and Passing, and to Come

#### Center for Mark Twain Studies at Quarry Farm (Elmira, NY)

Elmira College is pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Ann Wilson will teach a three-week graduate course entitled *Mark Twain's Legacies—Jean Stafford, Kaye Gibbons, Ernest Gaines*, July 19–August 5, 1999. The class will meet at Quarry Farm Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This course will treat three quite different writers who show the far-reaching and continuing influence of Mark Twain: Jean Stafford, a Westerner transplanted to the East; Kaye Gibbons, a contemporary white Southerner from North Carolina; and Ernest Gaines, an African American Southerner who grew up in a small Cajun-Creole community between Lafayette and Baton Rouge. Despite their seemingly disparate backgrounds, all three twentieth-century American writers show the influence of Twain and have acknowledged their identity, their fidelity to American folkways and vernacular speech, and in the case of Gibbons and Gaines, the honest and unsentimental treatment of Southern race relations. All three, like Mark Twain, attempt to transform an essentially oral tradition into a literary one, whether in the Western slang of Jean Stafford's novel, *The Mountain Lion* (1947), or her group of stories set in the West; the innocent but wise voice of Kaye Gibbons' Huck Finn-like Ellen Foster; or the illiterate diary entries of Ernest Gaines' hero, Jefferson, as he awaits his execution on death row in the racist South of the 1940's. Ernest Gaines, author of *A Lesson Before Dying*,

will conduct a class during the course as a special guest.

Dr. Mary Ann Wilson is a visiting professor from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where she is Associate Professor of English. Dr. Wilson has published widely in twentieth-century American Literature and Women's Studies. She also authored several entries in *The Mark Twain Encyclopedia*, edited by J.R. LeMaster and James D. Wilson (Garland, 1993).

For more information about registration and housing please contact the Elmira College Office of Continuing Education and Graduate Studies:

Telephone: (607) 735-1825

Fax: (607) 735-1759

E-mail: summer@elmira.edu

#### 1999 Spring Lecture Series *The Trouble Begins at Eight*

**April 28, 1999; Quarry Farm**

Maureen Donohue-Smith (Elmira College)

"Failed Families and the Crisis of Connectedness in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"

**May 12, 1999; Quarry Farm**

John Huffman (Mark Twain Birthplace Site)

"Riding a comet—The Humble Beginnings of Samuel L. Clemens"

**May 26, 1999; Quarry Farm**

Victor Doyno (SUNY-Buffalo)

"How Mark Twain Parented His Young Children"

## Huck Finn CD-ROM

Victor Doyno  
SUNY-Buffalo

We invite readers of *The Mark Twain Circular* to collect, xerox, and send comments, essays, or memories by authors about reading *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* or about Mark Twain. Writers' comments that provide insight or explain influence would be especially useful. These comments may be used in a planned CD-ROM edition of *Huck Finn*. The new technology should allow this edition to accommodate as much

information as 96 editions of *Ulysses*.

The new collection will be a cooperative project by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Foundation Board and the Mark Twain Foundation. The State University of New York at Buffalo Poetry/Rare Book Room, under Curator Robert Bertholf, will produce this CD-ROM as part of a larger digital-publishing program.

Please forward the xeroxed comments with sources to Vic Doyno, English Department, 306 Clemens Hall, SUNY at Buffalo,

NY 14260. Thank you.

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## Dates to Circle

**November 4-6, 1999.** South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference; Atlanta, GA.

**December 27-30, 1999.** Modern Language Association Conference; Chicago, IL.

## Making Mark Twain Work in the Classroom

JAMES S. LEONARD, EDITOR

"As someone who taught Mark Twain for almost forty years, I flattered myself by thinking I knew what I was doing. Yet I can say without hesitation that, whatever I thought I knew, I was much instructed by *Making Mark Twain Work in the Classroom*. This book is a significant addition to the mass of materials available on Mark Twain."—James M. Cox, Dartmouth College

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"This book makes the case, for those who still need to be convinced, that Mark Twain needs to be taught for all of the insight his work provides into our past as well as our present."—Rhett Jones, Brown University

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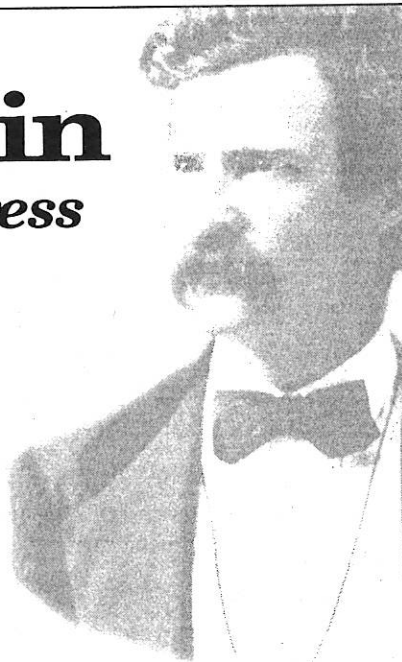
# Mark Twain

## at the *Buffalo Express*

Articles and Sketches by  
America's Favorite Humorist

By Mark Twain

Edited by Joseph B. McCullough  
and Janice McIntire-Strasburg



Picture courtesy of the Mark Twain Archives, Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira College

*"Being a stranger, it would be immodest and unbecoming in me to suddenly and violently assume the associate editorship of the Buffalo Express without a single explanatory word."*

Thus Mark Twain unleashed himself on the unsuspecting readers of the *Buffalo Express* on August 21, 1869. In order to impress his fiancée's parents with a stable income and settled lifestyle, Twain had just bought part interest in the newspaper.

*"I am not going to introduce any startling reforms, or in any way attempt to make trouble. I am simply going to do my plain, unpretending duty, when I cannot get out of it. . . . I shall always confine myself strictly to the truth, except when it is attended with inconvenience. . . . I shall not write any poetry, unless I conceive a spite against the subscribers."*

Published together for the first time, the tales and articles Twain contributed to the newspaper from 1869 to 1871 contain some of his finest humor and social criticism. Anyone who enjoys Mark Twain will appreciate these witty, insightful writings from a seldom-discussed period in his life.

ISBN 0-87580-249-4 357 pages \$30.00 cloth

- *Joseph B. McCullough* is the co-editor of *The Bible According to Mark Twain: Writings on Heaven, Eden and the Flood*.
- *Janice McIntire-Strasburg* teaches English at St. Louis University.

■ "The real Twain . . . an entertaining and admirable collection of his last important but neglected body of work, graced by skillful editing and exceptional scholarship."—Louis J.

Budd, editor of *Mark Twain:*

*Collected Tales, Sketches, Speeches, and Essays*

- "Significantly advances our knowledge of this relatively neglected time in Twain's development as a writer. . . . In this well-edited collection we can find plenty of Twain's early, sharp, amusing writing."—Victor Doyno, SUNY Buffalo



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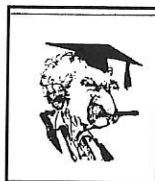
## Everything You Need to Know . . .

**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 S. 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, and Michael J. Kiskis. 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 1997 issues rather than the 1999. 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.

To: Prof. John Bird  
Exec. Coordinator, Mark Twain Circle  
English Department  
Winthrop University  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Please enroll me as a member of the **Mark Twain Circle of America** and subscriber to the *Mark Twain Circular*. I enclose a check for \$15.00 (\$16.00 for a non-U.S. address) made out to "Mark Twain Circle of America."

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To: Thomas A. Tenney, Editor  
*Mark Twain Journal*  
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The Citadel  
Charleston, SC 29409

Please enter my subscription to the *Mark Twain Journal* for the year(s) circled: 1997, 1998, 1999.

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

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

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