

Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

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Buffalo and Erie County Library and University of Buffalo's Poetry/Rare Book Collection Team up to Launch Digital Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Michael C. Mahaney Community Relations B&ECPL The Buffalo and Erie County Public

Library has obtained the publication rights to Mark Twain's handwritten manuscript. Adventures Huckleberry Finn, and in a cooperative venture will contract with the University at Buffalo Libraries to produce a CD-ROM based on the manuscript. A joint effort by B&ECPL and the University at Buffalo Foundation, with the support of the Baird Foundation, the University Libraries and the Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County, Inc. has made this possible.

"Many people might have assumed we acquired these rights when we reunited the manuscript in 1992," explained B&ECPL Director Daniel L. Walters, "but that wasn't the case. Until now, the Library held legal title to the manuscript and could display it freely, but we couldn't publish a facsimile edition, digitize it for CD-ROM, or mount it on our World Wide Web server. Mark

Twain might have appreciated the irony of that situation."

Pursuant to the 1992 among settlement agreement B&ECPL, the Twain Foundation, and the descendants of Buffalo Library trustee James Fraser Gluck, which returned the missing portion of the Huckleberry Finn manuscript to the Library and provided a onethird interest to each in all publication royalty rights, only the Twain Foundation and the Gluck family were given authority to execute agreements relative to publication rights.

W h representatives of the Twain Foundation and the Gluck family failed to pursue an agreement to publish the newly discovered material in manuscript, the B&ECPL attorney Patrick E. Martin took the lead in negotiating a contract with Random House in 1995, which resulted in publication of the new, comprehensive

edition of the novel in 1996.

While the 1995 agreement provides Random House with exclusive publication rights to the text of *Huckleberry Finn*, including previously unpublished material, Random House was not entitled to publish or license publication of a facsimile of Twain's handwritten manuscript. The Twain Foundation and Gluck family retained that right.

The mutual and earnest desire of two Western New York libraries changed that and made it possible for B&ECPL to secure

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manuscript publication rights with the intent to publish a CD-ROM based on the manuscript.

B&ECPL has long hoped to showcase its rare books and special collections, especially the priceless centerpiece, Twain's Huck Finn manuscript. With a Library web site in development, a perfect vehicle to do so was in sight, but B&ECPL did not have the necessary legal rights. Meanwhile, across town, University Poetry/Rare **Books** Libraries' Collection had issued a CD-ROM of its own remarkable holdings and was developing a new CD-ROM based on manuscript Joyce James collection. UB was eager to pursue similar projects of stature and put its graduate students and technical expertise to work on them.

It was a perfect match. At B&ECPL attorney Martin's instigation, B&ECPL Director Daniel L. Walters and Robert J. Bertholf, Curator of the Poetry/Rare Books Collection of the University Libraries, put their heads together and formulated a plan.

Because, as noted above, the Library, the Twain Foundation, and the Gluck family were each entitled to a one-third interest in proceeds received from sale of publication rights, and because those three entities in the past had only entertained proposals to jointly sell publication rights to an outside party, the most effective approach was to have the publication rights first obtained by the University at Buffalo Foundation, its licensees and assigns, by payment of a sum to the Twain Foundation and the Gluck Family.

When the Trustees of Buffalo's Baird Foundation were approached for their financial

support, they were impressed with proposal and voted this wholeheartedly to support it with a grant of \$13,334. In correspondence from Catherine Schweitzer of the Baird Foundation. the trustees: "... are especially excited by the cooperative nature of the project and its potential for public benefit beyond this publication. It is hoped that this venture will lead to prosperous future collaborations."

With funds available to effect an agreement transferring publication rights to UBF, a contemporaneous agreement between UBF and B&ECPL transferred the publication rights to the Library, in consideration of the Library waiving its right to any payment and providing "... other assistance to this matter."

Hereafter, B&ECPL, The Library Foundation, and UBF will jointly undertake fund raising for sums needed to actually publish the manuscript. The project takes advantage of expertise previously demonstrated by the University The recent Libraries and UBF. multi-media CD-ROM publication of Here: 50 Years of Poetry in Buffalo, an interactive presentation of the acquisition, history, and context of the Poetry/Rare Books Collection of the University at Buffalo, is indicative of UB's ability to translate major works of literature successfully to CD-ROM.

UBF will use grant funds to employ personnel in the publication process and obtain needed equipment. B&ECPL also will obtain equipment and other resources related to this project. These resources, the skills acquired in their use, and the collaborative relationships forged throughout this

project will enable B&ECPL and UB to undertake other similar projects in the future.

While B&ECPL receives all publication rights of the manuscript, the Library Foundation will receive any CD-ROM disks generated by the project and any books, etc., subsequently produced, which it may sell or apply as premiums for fund raising. The Library Foundation will retain any proceeds from those sales.

"I'm thrilled at the outcome of these negotiations," concluded Walters. "Through the generosity of a local foundation and as the result of some open and intelligent dialogue between two of Western New York's oldest institutions, we have accomplished something significant for the entire community at no cost to its taxpayers. Everybody wins."

For additional details contact B&ECPL Director Daniel L. Walters at (716) 858-7179.

A Memorial Fund for Mark Twain Scholars

Lawrence Berkove U of Michigan-Dearborn Fellow Twainians: All of us have been saddened by the deaths of

Twain scholars whose writings guided and aided us in our own careers. Henry Nash Smith and John Tuckey, for example, passed away a few years ago; Stanley Brodwin, Jim Wilson, and Pascal Covici much more recently. While those of us who knew these individuals personally have attempted in a variety of ways to comfort their families, I wish to

recommend that any and all Twainians who wish to commemorate past and future demises of Twain scholars, do so by contributing to the life of the Mark Twain Project.

The Mark Twain Project (MTP), located at the University of California-Berkeley, is without doubt the major scholarly Twain activity. For years, it has been annually publishing one or two outstanding editions of Twain's works: novels. tales, notebooks, and letters. Every single Twainian has benefited by its productions-models of editorial scholarship. In recent years, however, it has had to maintain its operations with a reduced staff and reduced funding, and its editor has had added to his already more than full-time task the burden of fund-raising. Despite its conscientious efforts to find donors who are not also sought after by the University of California fund-raisers, the MTP is chronically underfunded and heavily dependent upon grants. The Mark Twain Circle, uniquely concerned with the progress of Twain scholarship, now has an opportunity to memorialize our departed colleagues by helping the MTP.

As of this date, the Mark Twain Project has established a permanent Memorial Fund for Twain Scholars. Donations in memory of deceased Twain scholars will be promptly acknowledged; notification of donations will be sent to a close survivor; and the names of donors will be published in a separate category of the acknowledgment section of the next published volume of the MTP. Every donation will help keep purposefully alive the memory of our cherished colleagues by giving support to this activity dedicated to

preparing definitive editions of the author to whom they devoted their lives. Checks may be made out to:

Friends of the Bancroft Library University of California, Berkeley Berkeley, CA 94720

Write "For the Mark Twain Project" on the memo line, and send a covering note saying "in memory of . . ." and supplying an address to which notification should be sent. Every dollar donated is presently matched and counts double. Please be as generous as you can.

MLA Election

Past President of the Mark Twain Circle David E. E. Sloane has been nominated for one of the MLA Steering Committees. When MLA sends you this year's election ballot for the various divisions and committees, like the Later 19th Century American Literature section, please check to see where he is listed and vote as you think appropriate to help represent Twainian importance.

From the President

Michael J. Kiskis Elmira College Mark Twain scholar Alan Gribben (Auburn U,

Montgomery) has been named Henry Nash Smith Fellow by the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies. The award was presented at the August 1997 Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies. Gribben is the third recipient of the Henry Nash Smith Fellowship, following David E. E.

Sloane (1989) and James D. Wilson (1993). He was honored for his many contributions to Twain scholarship, including the two-volume *Mark Twain's Library: A Reconstruction*(Boston: G. K. Hall, 1980).

In addition, three certificates of recognition were presented on behalf of the Mark Twain Circle of America: to Taylor Roberts, R. Kent Rasmussen, and Kevin J. Bochynski.

The certificates were presented "for contributions to the Study of Mark Twain" and stated, "Your contribution to Mark Twain studies...is deserving of a place in the Mark Twain Scrapbook. It is with that sentiment in mind that this certificate of appreciation is presented to you by the Mark Twain Circle."

Roberts was cited for his founding of the electronic Mark Twain Forum and his work overseeing the forum from 1992 through 1997; Rasmussen was cited for his research and documentation in *Mark Twain A to Z*; Bochynski was cited for his undertaking the management of the electronic Mark Twain Forum beginning in 1997.

Each recipient seemed genuinely taken aback by the award.

MLA '97 Sessions

Two panels that will be sponsored by the Mark Twain Circle at the MLA Toronto meeting:

Sunday, Dec. 28, 10:15–11:30 a.m. Chair: Shelley Fisher Fishkin (U of Texas, Austin)

- 1. "Mark Twain's Puritan Dilemma," Charles Mitchell (Elmira C)
- 2. "Mark Twain and James Whitcomb Riley: Some Thoughts on Twain's

Theory of Performance," Harold K. Bush (Michigan State U)

3. "The Autobiography of Jim: Slave Narrative and the Continuity of American Ideology," Lesliee Doreen Antonette (East Stroudsburg U)

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 12:00–1:15 p.m. Chair: Michael J. Kiskis (Elmira C)

- 1. "Rejected Gospels: The Boyhood of Jesus in *Innocents Abroad*," Hilton M. Obenzinger (Stanford U)
- 2. "Silver Men, Golden Dreams, and Bloody Massacres: Natural Value in Twain's Nevada Hoaxes," Nicolas S. Witschi (U of Oregon)
- 3. "The Making and Breaking of Desperadoes: Mark Twain's Writing Process in *Roughing It*," Janice E. McIntire (U of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Call for Papers ALA '98 (San Diego)

There will be two panels. One will be chaired by John Bird of Winthrop University; that topic will be "Performing Dialect." The second will be an open topic. Papers/proposals for the second panel should be sent to Michael J. Kiskis, Humanities Div., Elmira C, One Park Avenue, Elmira, NY 14901.

Deadline: December 1, 1997.

Call for Papers MLA '98 (San Francisco)

There will be two panels. At this point both are open topics. Papers and proposals (proposals for full panels will be considered) should be sent to Michael J. Kiskis, Humanities Division, Elmira C, One Park Avenue, Elmira, NY 14901.

Deadline January 1, 1998.

News from AHSA

Cancún '98: "American Humor and Mark Twain": Call for Papers, etc.

David E. E. Sloane U of New Haven The second American Literature Association

Cancún, Mexico, conference cosponsored by the American Humor Studies Association and the Mark Twain Circle will convene on Thursday, December 10, 1998, for an opening reception at 7:00 P.M. Full sessions will be offered Friday (December 11), Saturday (December 12), and concluding at noon on Sunday (December 13). We hope not to offer conflicting sessions. This is a conference of specialists speaking to specialists (although non-specialists are welcome) and was developed under the auspices of the American Literature Association and Alfred Bendixen. The University of Alabama Press will publish a book composed of eighteen papers from the 1994 conference under the title American Humor: New Studies. New Directions in early 1998.

Individual papers are desired on any topic relating to American Humor, Mark Twain, humor in translation, ethnic and dialect humor, performance comedy, television, popular humor; this conference seeks wide coverage. Selected studies of minor and major authors are also welcome. Will Harris (Penn State) is developing a panel on Ishmael Reed; Dennis Eddings (Western Oregon U) is developing a panel on "Humor of Places" (how humorists use regional stereotypes of people and places); a panel on humor and dialect is projected; and proposals by prospective chairs of panels to be set up independently should write at once for approval. We would also welcome round-table discussions featuring several participants in an open discussion forum.

To propose a panel, paper, or forum, or to serve as a chair or respondent (we need these), please write to David E. E. Sloane, University of New Haven, 300 Orange Ave., West Haven, CT 06516. To discuss possible topics, call Monday or Friday mornings (203) 777-0667 or leave a message at my UNH office (203) 932-7371 anytime.

Either Monday the 14th or the preceding Wednesday would be an excellent day to visit Chichenitza or other sites on the Yucatan Peninsula. We will again be at the Presidente hotel, with its human scale, preseason rates, proximity to shopping, and beautiful beaches and pool.

Call for MLA Papers San Francisco '98

- 1. "Topics in Women's Humor." Nancy Walker, Vanderbilt University. Open call. Deadline January 15, 1998.
- 2. "The MLA Interview: Genderless Grandchild of the Humor of MLA." Eric Solomon, San Francisco State University. Open call for papers. Deadline: January 15, 1998.

AHSA at MLA Toronto '97

American Humor Studies will sponsor two Association seminars at the MLA Convention in Toronto, Canada. In addition, the Board of Directors of the AHSA will hold a business meeting at 7:00 P.M. on December 29 in the joint Mark Twain Circle-American Humor Studies Suite, location to be posted on the bulletin board at MLA and elsewhere. All those who attend the meeting of the Board of Directors are elected by attendance; others who cannot attend should write separately to remain on or be appointed to the Board.

Topics of the Board of Directors meeting include our search for an outstanding editor to follow Michael Kiskis after his successful five years editing Studies in American Humor the seeking of institutional funding by the new editor's university to replace the generous funding Elmira College has given us in the past. Other topics will include future programming, including the ALA session in San Diego in May 1998, Cancún in December 1998, and Nancy Walker will following. succeed Elaine Safer as President, with Daniel Royot rising to First Vice-President; a Second Vice-President will be nominated. Joe Alvarez, Dave Sloane, and Cameron Nickels will continue in their respective offices but are interested in developing assistants to provide for an orderly succession at some time in the future.

The MLA sessions and times follow; please note that Mark Twain sessions will also take place and other activities will occur in the Mark Twain Circle-American Humor

Studies suite:

Sunday, Dec. 28, 3:30–4:45 p.m.; Confederation 3, Royal York: "Humor in Contemporary American Fiction." Presiding: Elaine B. Safer (U of Delaware).

1. "The Yoke and the Joke: Humor of Disability in Stanley Elkin's Fiction," Sara Blacher Cohen (SUNY, Albany) 2. "Humor and Pain in Philip Roth's Sabbath's Theater," Eliane B. Safer 3. "More Comic than Tragic: Saul Bellow's Him with His Foot in His Mouth and Other Stories," Ben Siegel (Cal. State Polytechnic-Pomona)

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1:45–3:00 p.m.; Manitoba, Royal York: "Some Modest Laughter in an American Way." Presiding: Jennifer Andrews (U of Toronto, St. George)

- 1. "That Other *New Yorker* Humor: Comic Verse, 1925–30," Judith Yaross Lee (Ohio U)
- 2. "A Fine and Pleasant Comparison: Mark Twain, Patrick F. McManus, and the Fine Art of Ineptitude," Dennis Wayne Eddings (Western Oregon U)
- 3. "Satire, Gender, and Genre: Dorothy Parker Recasts the Short Story," Chella Courington (Huntingdon C)

Respondent: Charles Martin (Florida State U)

SAMLA Program

1997 SAMLA Annual Conference: Nov. 13–15; Peachtree Plaza; Atlanta, GA

Session Topic: Mark Twain at the End of the Century

Sponsor: Mark Twain Circle

Time: Friday, Nov. 14, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Chair: John Bird (Winthrop U)

Secretary: Allison R. Ensor (U of Tennessee-Knoxville)

Panelists:

- 1. Robert A. Alsop (Southern Illinois U at Carbondale): "'Atoms' and 'Artificialities': Performing Identity in *Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*" (20 min.)
- 2. Alan Baragona (Virginia Military Institute): "Re-engineering the Connecticut Yankee for the End of a Third Century" (20 min.)
- 3. Terry Oggel (Virginia Commonwealth U): "Twain's Most Troubling Statement About Race: 'The United States of Lyncherdom' Twain Really Wrote' (20 min.)

Respondent: Louis J. Budd (Duke U) (10 min.)

Business Meeting (10 min.)

Nominating Committee: James S. Leonard (The Citadel), Alan Gribben (Auburn U-Montgomery), Janet Gabler-Hover, Chair (Georgia SU)

Current Mark Twain Bibliography

James 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.

Scholarly Books

Fishkin, Shelley Fisher. Lighting out for the Territory: Reflections on

Mark Twain and American Culture. NewYork: Oxford Up, 1997. 265 pp. \$25.00.

Lighting out for the Territory: Reflections on Mark Twain and American Culture reveals who Mark Twain really was, how he got to be that way, and what we do with his legacies today. How did this son of slave holders come to write one of the greatest anti-racist works of fiction of all time? Why is that remarkable odyssey erased today in his hometown of Hannibal, Missouri? Which aspects of Twain are celebrated or exploited today and which are ignored? . . . Mark Twain's presence in contemporary culture is pervasive and intriguing. Fishkin's wide-ranging examination of that presence demonstrates how Twain and his work echo, ripple, and reverberate throughout our society. [Text excerpted from dust jacket.]

Harris, Susan K. The Courtship of Olivia Langdon and Mark Twain. Cambridge, Eng. & New York: Cambridge UP, 1996.

Courtship tells us the story of Clemens' and Langdon's epistolary relationship prior to their marriage, focusing on the way they used books as negotiating While Clemens held, for devices. instance, Coventry Patmore's The Angel in the House to be the portrait of a perfect marriage, Langdon voted for Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Aurora Leigh. Harris works extensively with diaries, letters, and commonplace books to show that Olivia Langdon, her family, and her friends were deeply involved with 19th-century culture, both "high" and "low," and that Mark Twain both respected their worldview and worked conscientiously to make a place for himself within it.

Leon, Philip. *Mark Twain and West Point*. Toronto: ECW P, 1996. pap. \$15.95. Available through Login Publishers Consortium, Chicago, 1-800-243-0138.

Mark Twain visited West Point at least ten times between 1876 and 1890, sauntering about the academy grounds smoking his cigar or a corn-cob pipe, appreciative performing for an forming lasting and audience. friendships with faculty-many of whom had already achieved fame in the Civil War-and cadets who would later become the highest ranking officers in the army. Through archival sources such as cadet diaries, previously correspondence, unpublished newspapers, and official academy records, Philip W. Leon reveals Mark Twain's fascination with America's training ground for military leaders. Mark Twain and West Point includes all the known stories and speeches Mark Twain presented on these visits and discusses West Point's influence on his writings from this

time. Louis J. Budd, in his Preface, writes "Leon heaps up materiel for foragers from many camps. The literary historian will find useful details on Twain's whereabouts and, more interestingly, on another platoon of acquaintances. . . . A literary scholar himself, he aims ultimately toward helping us read Twain." [Text from cover.]

Children's Books

Gilding, Thomas. Mark Twain & Me, Mikey T. Illustrations by Robert Marr. Burlington, WI: Mark

Twain Entertainment, 1996. Pp. 142. Paper, 5-1/4" x 8-1/4." ISBN 1-889817-35-X.

Twain, Mark. Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog. Adapted by Tom and Mary Gilding. Illustrations by Robert Marr. (Mark Twain Tales, ISBN 1-889817-00-7.) Burlington, WI: Mark Twain Entertainment, 1996. Unpaginated. Paper, 8-1/2" x 11." ISBN 1-889817-01-5.

Twain, Mark. The Buffalo Climbed A Tree? Adapted by Tom and Mary Gilding from Roughing It. Illustrations by Robert Marr. (Mark Twain Tales, ISBN 1-889817-00-7.) Burlington, WI: Mark Twain Entertainment, 1996. Unpaginated. Paper, 8-1/2" x 11." ISBN 1-889817-02-3.

Dates to Circle

October 9–11, 1997. American Literature Association Symposium on "The Trickster"; Lake Tahoe, CA. Contact Jeanne Campbell Reesman (U of Texas, San Antonio).

November 13–15, 1997. SAMLA Annual Conference; Peachtree Plaza Hotel; Atlanta, GA. Mark Twain Circle session: "Mark Twain at the End of the Century." Chair: John Bird (Winthrop U).

December 27–30, 1997. Modern Language Association Annual Conference; Toronto, Ontario.

Everything You Need to Know . . .



ABOUT THE CIRCULAR. The Mark Twain Circular, newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle, 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 17 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 400. Current officers are

displayed on p. 8. Past Presidents are Louis J. Budd, Alan Gribben, Pascal Covici, Jr., David E.E. Sloane, and Victor A. Dovno. Past Executive Coordinators: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, Michael J. Kiskis, and Laura Skandera-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 1995 issues rather than the 1997. 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. Joseph A. Alvarez Exec. Coordinator, Mark Twain Circle English Department Central Piedmont Community College Charlotte, NC 28204	To: Thomas A. Tenney, Editor Mark Twain Journal English Department The Citadel Charleston, SC 29409
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."	Please enter my subscription to the <i>Mark Twain Journal</i> for the year(s) circled: 1995, 1996, 1997. Subscription rates for individuals are \$10 for one year, \$18 for two years, \$25 for three years, or \$30 for four years. Libraries: \$18.00/year, no discount. Foreign: Add \$2.00/year for postage.
(printed name)	(printed name)
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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 Mississippi Quarterly (Spring issues).

See p. 4 in this issue of the Circular for calls for papers from the Mark Twain Circle for ALA 1998 and MLA 1998 and from the American Humor Studies Association for MLA 1998 and Cancún 1998.

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