



Mark Twain Circular

Newsletter of the Mark Twain Circle of America

Volume 11

October–December 1997

Number 4

MT at MLA '97

Michael J. Kiskis
Elmira College

The Mark
Twain Circle
and American
Humor Studies

Association will co-sponsor a suite at the 1997 MLA conference in Toronto. The suite will be in the Sheraton Center Hotel and Towers.

This year there is no formal paper reading scheduled; however, the suite will be open on the evening of the 27th, 28th, and 29th for conversation and general mayhem. There will also be morning gatherings on the 28th and 29th. These will not start too early—academic events should never compete with morning cartoons.

Business meetings of the Circle and AHSA will be held in the suite—updated information regarding the schedule for those meetings will be available at the conference and will be announced at panels.

Individuals should take note of special dietary needs—beer nuts, domestic beer (we will be in Toronto after all), wine and cheese will be welcome contributions to break the stodginess. David Sloane will NOT be bringing his banjo—a sigh of relief is encouraged.

Two panels to 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," Leslie 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)

Mark Twain Circular and "About Mark Twain"

1996 (Vol. 10) Index

Wesley Britton
Grayson County C

This index updates the ongoing index of items in the *Mark Twain Circular* and "About Mark Twain." Each item is listed by its initials (see below) followed by

In This Issue of the *Mark Twain Circular*:

MT at MLA '97	1
<i>Mark Twain Circular</i> Index	1
Call for Papers: ALA '98	2
Call for Papers: MLA '98	2
A Report from the Tahoe Conference	2
A Disclaimer	3
Current Mark Twain Bibliography	3
1997 Fall Twain Symposium	5
Dates to Circle	5
Mark Twain's Editors	6
Everything You Need to Know . . .	7

the page number on which the item appears. Items listed in the annotated "About Mark Twain" section are indicated by "AMT" followed by the month and page numbers. (Example: "Blair, Walter AMT M/A 10").

Both authors and subject matter are listed; Circle business, calls for papers, and conference information are not indexed.

Vol. 10

No. 1. January-March (J/M)

No. 2. April-June (A/J)

No. 3 July-Sept. (J/S)

No. 4 Oct.-Dec. (O/D) (Contains Vol. 9, 1995 index, pages 3-4)

Acting Naturally: Mark Twain and the Culture of Performance (Knoper) AMT J/M 5

Angell, Roger A/J AMT 7

Baetzhold, Howard AMT J/M 5

Bible According to Mark Twain, The (Baetzhold and McCullough) AMT J/M 5

Bradley, David A/J AMT 7

Branch, Edgar M. J/M 1, 2-3

Britton, Wesley AMT J/M 5

Budd, Louis J/M 4

Carlyle, Thomas AMT J/M 5

Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, A AMT J/M 5

"Curious Republic of Gondor, The" AMT J/M 5

determinism AMT J/M 5

Dickens, Charles AMT J/M 5

Doctorow, E. L. A/J AMT 7

Dodgson, Charles A/J AMT 7

Doyno, Victor J/M 1-2

duality AMT J/M 5

Emerson, Everett J/M 4

Everdell, William AMT J/M 5

Florance, Don AMT J/M 5

French, Mark Twain and the AMT J/M 5

French Revolution, The (Carlyle) AMT J/M 5

Green, Martin AMT J/M 5

Hirst, Robert J/M 3

Huckleberry Finn, Adventures of AMT J/M 5; J/A AMT 7

Innocents Abroad, The AMT J/M 5

Kiskis, Michael A/J 1-4; J/S 1-2

Knoper, Randall AMT J/M 5

lectures AMT J/M 5

Lorenzini, Carlo A/J AMT 7

"Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg, The" AMT J/M 5

Mark Twain in the Company of Women (Skandera-Trombley) J/M 1

Mark Twain on the Loose: A Comic Writer and the American Self (Michelson) AMT J/M 5

Mark Twain Project J/M 1, 2-3

"Mark Twain: The Ecstasy of Humor" (Budd) J/M 4

Mason, Bobbie Anne A/J AMT 7

McCullough, Joseph AMT J/M 5

Michelson, Bruce AMT J/M 5

Mysterious Stranger, The J/M 1; AMT J/M 5

performer, Mark Twain as AMT J/M 5

Powell, John A/J AMT 7

race, MT and A/J AMT 7

religion J/M 1; AMT J/M 5; A/J AMT 7

Rosenthal, M.L. A/J AMT 7

Roughing It J/M 1, 2-3; AMT J/M 5

Skandera-Trombley, Laura J/M 1

Smith, Harriet E. J/M 2-3

Styron, William A/J AMT 7

Tale of Two Cities, A (Dickens) AMT J/M 5

"True Story, A" A/J AMT 7

"War Prayer, The" AMT J/M 5

Wilson, James O/D AMT 1

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.

A Report from the Tahoe Conference

Victor Doyno
SUNY-Buffalo

Twainians were extraordinarily well represented at the recent ALA Trickster Conference. Well, of course! Could you easily imagine a literary conference on the Trickster which would NOT have any attention to Mark Twain?

Jeanne Campbell Reesman organized the convention, held at the Cal-Neva Resort. The arrangements included a trip to Virginia City,

Nevada, where Twain once worked for the *Territorial Enterprise*.

The entire conference had many high points, including one session in which Dr. Robert Hirst of the Mark Twain Project explained some of the differences in the 1993 edition of *Roughing It*, the kinds of improvements which enabled the edition to win the MLA prize for outstanding scholarly edition.

In addition, Siva Vaidhyanathan (University of Texas) announced and explained what he had discovered: a previously unknown complete work by Mark Twain! The work deals with the complex problems of national copyright duration, complete with some drawings by Twain. The work is a philosophical, Socratic dialogue, and the first version names one speaker as an "ordinary ass." Appropriately enough, Twain uses some language about "Claim-jumping" and literary theft that draws upon the Nevada days! We will await Siva's publication for a chance to read and discuss in detail—with Twainians and all other Americanists—this funny, abrasive, satirical work.

Because McAvoy Layne attended and performed, Mark Twain himself was also in attendance.

A Disclaimer

Isabelle Budd
Durham, NC

This disclaimer is prompted by the note on page six of the January–March 1997 *MT Circular* which recommends reading an "oral history interview of Louis Budd in the Spring 1996 journal *American Literary Realism*."

In the introduction to that interview the transcriber submits that this was done "in consultation with his wife, Isabelle." This implies approval which was *not* given by me. I do not wish to be used to authenticate *any* of the narrative that followed.

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.

Article

Stanion, Chuck. "Mark Twain: Ultimate Smoker." *Pipes and Tobaccos* 2.3 (Fall 1997): 34-41.

The article features several good photos, and the cover has a great sepia tone photo of Clemens. From the article:

Clemens was a man of many vocations: printer, riverboat pilot, silver and gold miner, newspaperman, lecturer, world-traveling correspondent, humorist, publisher, inventor, speculator, novelist, man of letters,

American icon—but he had one identity that never altered: he was resolutely, inflexibly, unshakably a smoker. (36)

The article is the first of a two-part series. The editorial in this issue also contains a plea to save the imperilled Mark Twain Project:

The Mark Twain Project houses letters, manuscripts, dictations, notebooks, photographs, and literary fragments that are essential to scholars, and regularly publishes definitive versions of those works, as well as previously unpublished pieces. The tight focus of our article—Twain's pipe smoking—would have been impossible without the Mark Twain Project's ongoing publication of Twain's letters and notebooks. (6)

Photos of some of Clemens' receipts from tobacco and pipe purchases are reproduced courtesy of MTP (39). [Text prepared by Taylor Roberts for the Mark Twain Forum.]

Books

Covici, Pascal, Jr. *Humor and Revelation in American Literature: The Puritan Connection*. Columbia and London: U of Missouri P, 1997. 226 pp. Cloth, 6-1/2" x 9-1/2". Bibliography, index. \$39.95. ISBN 0-8262-1095-3.

Quirk, Tom. *Mark Twain: A Study of the Short Fiction*. Studies in Short Fiction Series. New York: Twayne, 1997. 232 pp. Cloth. Chronology, bibliography, index. \$24.95. ISBN 0-8057-0867-7.

A comprehensive analysis of the comic genius and narrative originality that makes Twain's short fiction a cornerstone of the American literary

tradition. Quirk's presentation of Twain's career as a writer of short fiction is complemented with selections of Twain's essays on writing. A collection of important critical essays rounds out this . . . work. In part I, Quirk examines Twain's career from the time Samuel Clemens adopted his pen name, in 1863, until the time of his death in 1910. Within this frame Quirk traces three creative periods: Twain's early years, during which he made a name for himself as a teller of tall tales with a talent for frontier humor; his middle years, during which he approached more serious themes and emerged as a prominent literary figure; and finally Quirk assesses what has been called Twain's "bad mood" period and argues for the persistence of Twain's remarkable literary gift, even in those final years filled with cynicism and despair. [Text from dust jacket.]

The Oxford Mark Twain. General Editor: Shelley Fisher Fishkin. 29 volumes. New York: Oxford UP, 1996.

Photographic facsimiles of the first American editions of all the books by Mark Twain that were published during his lifetime. Each volume includes a general Foreword by Shelley Fisher Fishkin, an Introduction by a current fiction writer, and an Afterword by a Twain scholar. There are also Notes on the Texts by Robert H. Hirst and collaborative essays on illustrations by Beverley R. David and Ray Sapirstein. Volumes may be purchased separately or, more economically, as a complete set.

Volumes (with original American publication dates)

The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and Other Sketches (1867)

Introduction: Roy Blount Jr.
Afterword: Richard Bucci

The Innocents Abroad (1869)
Introduction: Mordecai Richler
Afterword: David E.E. Sloane

Roughing It (1872)
Introduction: George Plimpton
Afterword: Henry B. Wonham

The Gilded Age (1873)
Introduction: Ward Just
Afterword: Gregg Camfield

Sketches, New and Old (1875)
Introduction: Lee Smith
Afterword: Sherwood Cummings

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)
Introduction: E.L. Doctorow
Afterword: Albert E. Stone

A Tramp Abroad (1880)
Introduction: Russell Banks
Afterword: James S. Leonard

The Prince and the Pauper (1882)
Introduction: Judith Martin
Afterword: Everett Emerson

Life on the Mississippi (1883)
Introduction: Willie Morris
Afterword: Lawrence Howe

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885)
Introduction: Toni Morrison
Afterword: Victor A. Doyno

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889)
Introduction: Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
Afterword: Louis J. Budd

Merry Tales (1892)
Introduction: Anne Bernays
Afterword: Forrest G. Robinson

The American Claimant (1892)
Introduction: Bobbie Ann Mason
Afterword: Peter Messent

The £1,000,000 Bank-Note and Other New Stories (1893)
Introduction: Malcolm Bradbury
Afterword: James D. Wilson

Tom Sawyer Abroad (1894)
Introduction: Nat Hentoff
Afterword: M. Thomas Inge

The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson and the Comedy Those Extraordinary Twins (1894)
Introduction: Sherley Anne Williams
Afterword: David Lionel Smith

Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc (1896)
Introduction: Justin Kaplan

Afterword: Susan K. Harris

The Stolen White Elephant and Other Detective Stories (1882, 1896, 1902; includes *Tom Sawyer, Detective* and *A Double-Barrelled Detective Story*)

Introduction: Walter Mosley
Afterword: Lillian S. Robinson
How to Tell a Story and Other Essays (1897)

Introduction: David Bradley
Afterword: Pascal Covici, Jr.
Following the Equator and Anti-imperialist Essays (1897, 1901, 1905)

Introduction: Gore Vidal
Afterword: Fred Kaplan
The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Stories and Essays (1900)

Introduction: Cynthia Ozick
Afterword: Jeffrey Rubin-Dorsky
The Diaries of Adam and Eve (1904, 1906)

Introduction: Ursula K. Le Guin
Afterword: Laura Skandera-Trombley
What Is Man? (1906)

Introduction: Charles Johnson
Afterword: Linda Wagner-Martin
The \$30,000 Bequest and Other Stories (1906)

Introduction: Frederick Busch
Afterword: Judith Yaross Lee
Christian Science (1907)

Introduction: Garry Wills
Afterword: Hamlin Hill
Chapters from My Autobiography (from the *North American Review*, 1906–1907)

Introduction: Arthur Miller
Afterword: Michael J. Kiskis
1601, and Is Shakespeare Dead? (1882, 1909)

Introduction: Erica Jong
Afterword: Leslie Fiedler
Extract from Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven (1909)

Introduction: Frederik Pohl
Afterword: James A. Miller
Speeches (1910)

Introduction: Hal Holbrook;
Afterword: David Barrow

Video

Mark Twain: A Concise Biography. Famous Author Series, distributed by KULTUR International Films Ltd. (195 Hwy. 36, West Long Beach, NJ, 07764). Written, produced and directed by Malcolm Hossick. 30 min., color. ISBN 1-56127-821-1. \$19.95. [Reviewed by Wes Britton on the Mark Twain Forum; Jan. 31, 1997]

1997 Fall Twain Symposium

BENEATH THE EAVES: The Science and History of Recreating Mark Twain's Historic Site.

**Saturday, November 8, 1997
The Mark Twain House
Hartford, Connecticut**

The Mark Twain House's 1997 Fall Twain Symposium, "Beneath the Eaves: The Science and History of Recreating Mark Twain's Historic Site" will present in detail the 1997 Historic Structures Report currently guiding restoration of Mark Twain's Victorian home, carriage house, and grounds. An architect, historian, and design specialist will reveal the results of their 1995-1996 investigation of The Mark Twain

House. Their reports include extensive historical data about the construction and ownership of the house and grounds, as well as subsequent changes in the property. The Mark Twain House's curator concludes the program revealing how these reports are being put into action at The Mark Twain House in Hartford, CT. The Mark Twain House is the author's Hartford home, his primary residence from 1874 to 1891. A National Register Historic Landmark since 1963, the house was commissioned by Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), designed by Edward Tuckerman Potter and Alfred H. Thorp and decorated in 1881 by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Associated Artists. The Mark Twain House is open year-round, Monday and Wednesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. The museum is open seven days a week from Memorial Day through October 15 and in December. The last tour leaves at 4:00 p.m. daily. For tour information, please call (860) 493-6411; for program information call (860) 247-0998.

The conference will be held at The Hastings Hotel and Conference Center 85 Sigourney Street (at Farmington Avenue) Hartford, CT, just four blocks east of The Mark Twain House.

[The above text was transcribed by Kevin Bochynski (for the Mark Twain Forum) from the Fall Twain Symposium brochure from The Mark Twain House.]

Dates to Circle

November 8, 1997. 1997 Fall Twain Symposium. Mark Twain House; Hartford, CT. "Beneath the Eaves: The Science and History of Recreating Mark Twain's Historic Site."

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. See "MLA 1997" (p. 1) for details.

May/June 1998. American Literature Association Annual Conference. See "Call for Papers, ALA '98 (San Diego)," above

December 27-30, 1998. Modern Language Association Annual Conference; San Francisco, CA. See "Call for Papers, MLA '98 (San Francisco)," above.

Mark Twain's Editors



[Thanks to Howard Baetzhold for furnishing this picture (from August 1964) of the original editors of the Iowa-California Edition of the Works of Mark Twain.]

Gladys Bellamy, Walter Blair, Hennig Cohen, William Gibson, Lewis Leary, Arlin Turner, Frederick Anderson are now deceased. Most of the rest are emeriti.

See "Mark Twain Project" in the *Mark Twain Encyclopedia* for a little further information.

[University designations are those institutions at which the editors were teaching at the time.]

First Row: Hennig Cohen (Pennsylvania), Warner Barnes (Iowa), Walter Blair (Chicago), Gladys Bellamy (Southwestern State College, Okla.), Roger Saloman (Case-Western Reserve)

Second Row: Ed Barber (Harper representative), William Todd (Texas-Austin), Arlin Turner (Duke), William Gibson (New York University), Franklin Rogers (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Alan Bates (Chicago?)

Third Row: Howard Baetzhold (Butler U.), Hamlin Hill (Wyoming), James Williams (Fairleigh Dickinson), Louis Budd (Duke), John Gerber (Iowa), Paul Baender (Iowa), Edgar Branch (Miami of Ohio), Albert Stone (Emory), Frederick Anderson (Editor, Mark Twain Papers, Berkeley)

Absent: Leon Dickinson (Missouri-Columbia), Lewis Leary (Columbia)

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 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. Doyno. Past Executive Coordinators: Everett Emerson, James D. Wilson, Michael J. Kiskis, and Laura Skandera-Trombley. 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
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Charlotte, NC 28204

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
English Department
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29409

Please enter my subscription to the *Mark Twain Journal* 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.

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

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Editor, *Mark Twain Circular*:
James S. Leonard
The Citadel

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).

The Mark Twain Suite at the 1997 MLA Convention will be co-sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association. See the message from Mark Twain Circle President Michael Kiskis on page 1.

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